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CM DK Shivakumar moves to defuse crisis after Reddy's resignation

Chief Minister assures resolution as portfolio dispute rocks new Cabinet

"Nothing to worry. He is a great friend. We are the closest friends among the Cabinet. We will sort out the problem.
-DK Shivakumar, Chief Minister

"I am resigning from my post because I cannot work against conscience. How long can I tolerate this humiliation? "I am still in the Congress party. I have been with the party for the past 53 years."
-Ramalinga Reddy, Congress MLA

BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar on Friday sought to calm tensions within the newly formed state Cabinet after senior Congress leader Ramalinga Reddy resigned from his ministerial post over portfolio allocation.

Reddy announced his resignation earlier in the day, expressing disappointment over being assigned the Major and Medium Irrigation Department instead of the Bengaluru Development portfolio, which he claimed had been promised to him.

Attempting to defuse the situation, Shivakumar described Reddy as one of his closest friends and assured that the issue would be resolved through dialogue.

Reddy, however, said he could no longer tolerate what he described as humiliation and decided to step down rather than work against his conscience.

The veteran leader clarified that he remains committed to the Congress party and has no intention of quitting the organisation.

Meanwhile, Karnataka minister Priyank Kharge expressed confidence that senior party leaders would resolve the dispute soon.

The episode marks the first significant challenge for the Shivakumar-led government, which assumed office only this week.

What triggered the resignation?

Expected portfolio: Bengaluru Development

Portfolio allotted: Major & Medium Irrigation

Resignation submitted: June 5, 2026

About Ramalinga Reddy

Eight-time MLA from BTM Layout

Congress leader for over 53 years

Former Home, Transport & Muzrai Minister

Key portfolios retained by CM

FINANCE

CABINET AFFAIRS

PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

INTELLIGENCE

UNALLOCATED DEPARTMENTS

K. H. MUNIYAPPA SEEKS REVIEW OF PORTFOLIO ALLOCATION

Hours after senior minister Ramalinga Reddy expressed displeasure over portfolio allocation in the D.K. Shivakumar government, Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa also publicly voiced his dissatisfaction, urging the Congress leadership to reconsider the distribution of departments. Muniyappa said seniority had not been adequately taken into account while assigning portfolios. A veteran Congress leader with a political career spanning nearly five decades, he noted that several senior legislators, including himself and Ramalinga Reddy, deserved greater consideration. The minister said he had sought portfolios such as Social Welfare, Agriculture or Irrigation, arguing that these departments would provide greater opportunities to serve the public, particularly farmers and vulnerable sections of society.

CM admits promise to Ramalinga Reddy, says high command took final call

Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar on Friday acknowledged that he had earlier promised the Bengaluru Urban Development portfolio to senior Congress leader Ramalinga Reddy, but said the final decision on portfolio allocation was taken by the party high command. Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Shivakumar said he had personally tried to secure the portfolio for Reddy, considering his long political experience and deep association with Bengaluru. However, the party leadership ultimately decided to assign the department to Krishna Byre Gowda. The Chief Minister said decisions taken by senior party leaders must be respected and indicated that there was little scope for revisiting the allocation. Addressing concerns raised by minister K. H. Muniyappa over his portfolio, Shivakumar said the matter had been discussed with the party leadership.

Mallikarjun Kharge files RS nomination from Karnataka

BENGALURU

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday filed his nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha elections from Karnataka at Vidhana Soudha, accompanied by top party leaders in a display of unity ahead of the June 18 polls.

Kharge, who currently serves as the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, submitted his nomination papers before Assembly Secretary M.K. Vishalakshi. His present term in the Upper House is scheduled to end on June 25.

The nomination event was attended by Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Karnataka Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Congress general secretaries Randeep Singh Surjewala and K. C. Venugopal, along with several ministers and party functionaries.

The Congress has also nominated Pawan Khera and Mansoor Ali Khan as its candidates for the Rajya Sabha elections from Karnataka. Party sources said both leaders are expected to file their nominations separately.

Khera heads the Congress party's media and publicity department, while Mansoor Ali Khan previously contested the 2024 Lok Sabha elections from the Bengaluru Central constituency.

RS Election 2026 – Cong Candidates from K'taka

- **Mallikarjun Kharge** – AICC President
- **Pawan Khera** – AICC Media & Publicity Department Chairman
- **Mansoor Ali Khan** – AICC Secretary

KEY DATES

- Nomination filed: **June 5, 2026**
- Rajya Sabha election: **June 18, 2026**
- Kharge's term ends: **June 25, 2026**

Karnataka deepens Europe ties as DKS meets German, EU leaders

BENGALURU

"Over 900 European companies work, invest and create jobs in Karnataka across cutting-edge sectors, with a bright future ahead."
Herve Delphin, EU Ambassador to India

Karnataka strengthened its engagement with Europe on Friday as Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar held high-level discussions with a German delegation and received strong endorsement from the European Union's envoy to India.

The Chief Minister met a delegation led by Mario Voigt, the Minister-President of the German state of Thuringia, to explore opportunities for greater investment, technology collaboration and economic cooperation. Industries Minister M. B. Patil and Industries Department Principal Secretary S Selvakumar also attended the meeting.

The discussions focused on expanding partnerships in advanced manufacturing, semiconductors, renewable energy, biotechnology, electric vehicles and innovation-driven industries. In a parallel development, Herve Delphin highlighted Karnataka's importance in Europe's investment strategy in India. Following his interaction with Shivakumar, Delphin noted that Karnataka ranks among the top destinations for European businesses in the country.

The renewed engagement comes as Karnataka seeks to attract more global investments and position itself as a hub for next-generation technologies, manufacturing and research. The meetings underscore Karnataka's efforts to strengthen international partnerships and attract high-value investments that generate jobs and drive economic growth.

KARNATAKA–EUROPE PARTNERSHIP

- 900+ European companies operating in Karnataka
- **Focus sectors:** Semiconductors, EVs, biotech, renewable energy
- **Key partner:** German state of Thuringia
- **Objective:** Investment, technology transfer and skills exchange

RBI considers introducing plastic currency notes in India

NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is considering the introduction of polymer, or plastic, currency notes in the country, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra announced on Friday.

Speaking about the proposal, Malhotra said the plan is currently in its preliminary stages and is being examined by the central bank.

If implemented, polymer notes would replace or supplement traditional paper currency notes that are currently in circulation.

The move comes as cash usage has witnessed a resurgence despite the rapid growth of digital payment systems. Polymer notes are considered more durable than paper notes, have a longer lifespan and are generally more resistant to wear and tear, moisture and counterfeiting. The RBI had first explored the possibility of introducing plastic currency nearly a decade ago.

Annamalai quits BJP, launches new political movement 'We The Leaders'

CHENNAI

Former Tamil Nadu BJP president K. Annamalai on Friday resigned from the primary membership of the BJP and announced the launch of a new political movement called "We The Leaders", citing differences with the party leadership over political strategy in the state.

The resignation was formally accepted by BJP national president Nitin Nabin after consultations with senior party leaders in New Delhi. In a video message posted on social media, Annamalai described his decision as "a new beginning" and said he wanted to part ways with the party respectfully.

A former IPS officer who entered politics in 2020, Annamalai said his objective was to create a new model of governance centred on ethics, leadership and grassroots empowerment. He said the new initiative would initially function as a people's movement before eventually evolving into a political party capable of contesting the next Tamil Nadu Assembly elections.

Reflecting on his political journey, Annamalai said his six years in the BJP had provided valuable experience and opportunities.

'We The Leaders' to Focus on Ethics and Grassroots Leadership

Annamalai said "We The Leaders" would be a dynamic people's movement driven by new ideas and ideologies. The initiative aims to build a grassroots cadre network, train ordinary citizens for public leadership and promote ethical politics. He also announced plans to establish a Centre for Politics and Ethics in Coimbatore, with the long-term goal of transforming the movement into a full-fledged political party ahead of future elections.

Rahul alleges Great Nicobar project puts 'Greed Over Green'

NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Friday criticised the Centre's proposed Great Nicobar Island development project, alleging that it prioritises commercial interests over environmental protection and the welfare of indigenous communities.

Marking World Environment Day, Gandhi released a 16-minute video based on his visit to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in April and appealed to citizens, especially young people, to support a campaign under the slogan "Green Over Greed".

The Congress leader claimed that the project, which includes a transshipment port, airport and tourism infrastructure, would threaten ancient rainforests, coral reefs and biodiversity in one of India's most ecologically sensitive regions.

GOVERNMENT FACES DISSENT

Cong facing rebellion within days of govt formation: Ashoka

BENGALURU

"With just one-and-a-half years left for the elections, the rebellion has already started and it is going to turn into a volcano. There are signs that many more wickets could fall in the days ahead."
-R Ashoka, Leader of Opposition

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka on Friday alleged that internal rebellion had already erupted within the Congress government, claiming dissatisfaction over portfolio allocation had exposed deep divisions in the ruling party just days after the swearing-in ceremony.

Speaking to reporters, Ashoka said Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar had failed to honour promises made to senior leaders, particularly regarding the allocation of the Bengaluru Urban Development portfolio. Referring to the resignation offered by Ramalinga Reddy, Ashoka alleged that the Chief Minister had gone back on his word.

He claimed that dissatisfaction was visible among several ministers and cited reported objections raised by senior. According to Ashoka, the government was struggling to maintain internal cohesion and was in no position to effectively respond to the Opposition in the Assembly.

The BJP leader also criticised the government's governance record, alleging that promises related to Bengaluru's development had not been fulfilled. He said the city continued to face issues such as poor roads and garbage management despite repeated assurances about transforming Bengaluru into a world-class city. Ashoka further claimed that the Congress government could face greater instability in the coming months, alleging that more leaders could openly express dissatisfaction. He also questioned the feasibility of launching new welfare schemes amid financial pressures, including pending pension liabilities.

In a series of posts on social media, Ashoka described internal conflict as a constant feature of the Congress party and sarcastically remarked that senior Congress leaders from Delhi may need to stay permanently in Bengaluru to manage recurring disputes.

Three killed in fresh violence, houses torched in Manipur

IMPHAL

Three people were killed and several houses were set on fire after fresh violence erupted in Manipur's Kangpokpi district early Friday morning, raising concerns over the fragile security situation in the state. According to local sources, unidentified armed assailants attacked Loibol village under the New Keithelmanbi area. The attackers allegedly opened indiscriminate fire on residents, triggering panic and forcing villagers to flee for safety. Several houses were also reduced to ashes as the assailants allegedly set fire to residential properties during the violence. Security forces rushed to the area after receiving reports of gunfire and arson.

Authorities have launched an investigation to identify those responsible for the attack. Additional security personnel have been deployed in and around the affected region to prevent further violence and maintain law and order.

"Prosperity, not mere development, is what we need"

MYSURU

Retired professor Prof. Krishnegowda said that people have become weary of the kind of "development" being projected by governments and stressed that what society truly needs is prosperity, not development.

Speaking at the "Green Mysore – Laksha Vriksha Campaign" organised by H.V. Rajeev Sneha Balaga in association with the Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project at the Green Mysore Nursery near Bandipalya on the Mysuru-Ooty Road on Thursday, he expressed concern over the direction in which modern development is heading.

Looking at the damage being caused in the name of development by governments and systems, one feels disgusted, he said and noted that there is not a single flyover in London, yet traffic moves efficiently. Here, they are building flyovers wherever there is congestion, which only encourages more vehicles on the roads. In the process, they are destroying a rich and balanced environment in the name of development.

Excessive greed causing damage

Quoting Father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi, Prof. Krishnegowda said that nature has the capacity to meet human needs but not human greed. Human desires and consumerism have no limits, and it is impossible to fully assess the environmental damage caused by them. The situation calls for people to become more sensitive towards environmental issues. "In foreign countries, senior officials and ordinary citizens travel in the same buses. In our society, owning a car has become a status symbol. Young people often travel from Mysuru to Bengaluru just to have a cup of coffee without considering the fuel consumed and the environmental pollution caused. Parents should encourage children to ride bicycles and strengthen their health. Simply making them plant saplings should not make us believe we have fulfilled our responsibility towards environmental conservation," he advised.

Obsession with speed, light and noise

Prof. Krishnegowda observed that modern society has developed an unhealthy obsession with speed, light and noise. People cannot even wait for the green signal at traffic junctions and begin moving during the yellow signal. What exactly is achieved by saving two seconds? Is there a need for excessive noise during births, deaths, festivals and celebrations? Creation often happens more profoundly in darkness than in light, but we fail to understand this. They measure the light emitted by a bulb but ignore the heat it generates.

Asianet Suvarna News Editor Ajith Hanumakkanavar said that true environmental conservation lies in allowing nature to function on its own. The best-preserved ecosystems are those untouched by humans.

One study suggests that the consumption of milk and diapers by a child up to the age of two-and-a-half years is equivalent to felling nine trees. Human beings are different from other living species because of their ability to adapt and cooperate. Despite extensive space exploration, humanity has not discovered another planet capable of supporting human life. "If we fail to protect the one Earth we have, humanity's survival itself will be threatened. Campaigns such as tree-planting drives may only help postpone an impending environmental catastrophe," he cautioned.

On the occasion, the Mysuru City Corporation distributed 5,000 saplings. Representatives of various organisations were also symbolically presented with saplings.

Among those present were Sri Immadi Murugharajendra Swamiji of Sri Murugharajendra Maha Samsthana Math, Mariyala in Chamarajanagar district, writer Shivappa, retired IFS officer T. Balachandra, Green Mysore and Laksha Vriksha campaign architect H.V. Rajeev, former Mayor B.L. Bhairappa, former Corporation member K.V. Mallesh and others.

The Laksha Vriksha movement, launched in 2018 with the objective of transforming Mysuru into a clean, beautiful and safe city, has been progressing successfully. The campaign aims to ensure breathable air for city residents and is being carried out without any expectation of reward or personal gain.

HUNSUR GETS ANOTHER BLS AMBULANCE

HPCL CSR initiative strengthens emergency healthcare services

MYSURU

A Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance donated to the Health Department under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) was dedicated to public service on Thursday by District Health Officer Dr. P.C. Kumaraswamy.

The ambulance was flagged off during a programme held at the premises of the District Health Officer's office in Mysuru. Speaking on the occasion, the DHO said there was a need to further strengthen emergency medical services in the Hunsur region, which is connected by a national highway and witnesses a significant number of road accidents. The additional ambulance service will provide timely assistance to the public.

The new BLS ambulance is equipped with oxygen support systems, a suction machine and other essential life-saving medical equipment. It will help transport patients quickly to the district hospital or higher medical centres during emergencies, he added.

Benefits 2 lakh people

Hunsur taluk has a population of nearly two lakh people, of whom around 50,000 reside within the town limits. Although two ambulances are already in operation, the addition of another ambulance is significant in view of the increasing demand for emergency medical services, Dr. Kumaraswamy said.

Support for Pregnant Women and Newborns

On an average, five to six emergency cases are referred every day from the Hunsur Government Taluk Hospital to Mysuru. The new ambulance service will facilitate the rapid transportation of pregnant women, newborn babies and children requiring NICU care to the district headquarters. It will play an important role in ensuring round-the-clock emergency healthcare services, he said.

Strengthening Emergency Care

Only primary treatment is available at the Primary Health Centre (PHC) level, while taluk hospitals provide first-level medical care. Patients requiring advanced treatment need to be shifted to district hospitals. Well-equipped ambulance services are therefore essential for transporting such patients from taluk centres to district hospitals. Dr. Kumaraswamy stated that the district currently has an adequate number of ambulances to meet healthcare needs.

Programme Officers Siraj Ahmed and Gopinath, Administrative Medical Officer of Hunsur Government Taluk Hospital Dr. Shivashankar, HPCL Pipeline Division Executive Director R. Ramesh, Deputy General Manager B. Vijay Kumar, Operations Division General Manager P. Ajith and others were present on the occasion.

Mysuru's son lost the way, now Mysuru's son-in-law must deliver: MLC. Vishwanath

MYSURU

BJP MLC H. Vishwanath expressed hope that the tenure of the new Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, whom he referred to as 'Mysuru's son-in-law,' would bring positive changes not only to Mysuru district but to the entire state.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, he said that until now Karnataka had been under the administration of "Mysuru's son" (Siddaramaiah), and now the administration of "Mysuru's son-in-law" had begun. "I hope our district's son-in-law ensures comprehensive development for the state. I believe D.K. Shivakumar will listen to the grievances and concerns of Congress workers," he said.

Taking a swipe at former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the MLC said despite being Mysuru's son, he governed the district like "a son who had lost his way." There is a hope that Shivakumar would provide effective leadership during the remaining two years of the government's term and address the shortcomings of the previous administration.

Vishwanath described D.K. Shivakumar's rise from an ordinary party worker to the Chief Minister's office as a remarkable achievement and said he is a great organiser. It is heartening that both Shivakumar, who played a crucial role in bringing the Congress to power, and the newly appointed KPCC President B.K. Hariprasad have now been entrusted with important responsibilities.

> **Party workers build political parties; leaders are the ones who destroy them. I hope the duo of B.K. Hariprasad and D.K. Shivakumar work together effectively and contribute to the welfare of the state.**
> —H. Vishwanath, MLC

Vishwanath alleged that a large-scale land mafia is currently operating in Mysuru, with the involvement of some government officials and the new CM must take immediate action against those responsible. A team of experienced individuals from Mysuru district to provide guidance on the city's development. There must be greater emphasis on tourism and said Mysuru should no longer be known merely as a "retirees' paradise."

"Transform Mysuru into a paradise for young people by creating employment opportunities. Give greater attention to education and healthcare programmes," he advised.

He said many people had perceived the Congress as being anti-Hindu. However Shivakumar seeking the blessings of elders and visiting major religious centres before taking the oath of office has changed the perception. "His conduct helped dispel that perception among the people and has sent a positive message across the state," he said, commending the Chief Minister's religious outlook.

Responding to the proposed Bidadi township project, Vishwanath cautioned that no government in Karnataka had survived after confronting farmers. The Chief Minister to take farmers into confidence before proceeding with the project.

Nalwadi set an example of democratic governance under monarchy: Baraguru

MYSURU

Senior litterateur Prof. Baraguru Ramachandrappa said that Nalwadi Krishna Raja Wadiyar practised democratic governance within a monarchical system and remains an ideal example of how a ruler should serve the people.

Speaking after releasing the book Nalwadi Krishna Raja Wadiyaru Mattu Adhunika Mysuru during the Nalwadi Krishna Raja Wadiyar Jayanti celebrations organised jointly by the Bengaluru City District Kannada Sahitya Parishat, Mysuru District Kannada Sahitya Parishat and the Kuvempu Institute of Kannada Studies here on Thursday, he said Nalwadi had made immense contributions in the fields of education, society and culture. The religious harmony demonstrated by Nalwadi carries immense relevance even today. What the country needs now is harmony and equality. Elections are only the technical aspect of democracy, while equality, fraternity and philosophical values are its essence and must be implemented in practice.

Expressing concern over the state of historical writing, Baragur said history is passing through a critical phase as people who are not historians are increasingly writing history. The character and integrity of history are being eroded, which is highly dangerous. They need an approach to history that is free from caste, religion, political affiliations and prejudices. Writing history requires integrity, deep commitment, contemporary wisdom and scholarship. Historians today are facing serious challenges because history is being misinterpreted. "If every political party writes its own version of history, true history will lose its authenticity and significance," he warned.

Senior critic Prof. O.L. Nagabhushan Swamy, speaking about the book, said that if the characters and situations depicted in Prof. S. Chandrashekar's work on Nalwadi were slightly altered, they would reflect contemporary life. The book is a mirror to the present. Despite facing numerous challenges, Nalwadi carried out people-oriented governance. He viewed administration not as a privilege or authority but as a responsibility. The work contains many profound observations on his approach to governance.

Author Prof. S. Chandrashekar said that although he is opposed to monarchy and supports democracy, he has been writing about Nalwadi for nearly five decades after completing his Ph.D. research on Mysuru. "This book is the culmination of all those years of study and writing," he said.

Prof. O.L. Nagabhushan Swamy expressed concern over the declining state of democratic institutions and higher education, stating that universities are being severely neglected by governments, politicians, teachers and students alike.

He said the growing indifference towards learning and the attitude of questioning the value of education were alarming trends. The respect once associated with a Ph.D. degree has diminished. Today, many pursue doctoral degrees merely as a means of livelihood.

Nagabhushan Swamy alleged that some research guides demand gifts from scholars under the pretext of gratitude, including expensive presents, cars and even sponsorship of their children's birthday celebrations. Yet society appears largely unperturbed by these practices. Unless the present situation causes us discomfort and concern, we will not be able to shape a better future.

"Malabar Gold's strong focus on education through CSR commendable"

MYSURU

Regional Joint Director Dr. D.S. Pratima lauded Malabar Gold for allocating a significant portion of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds towards education and urged students to make the most of the opportunity and strive for excellence.

Speaking at a scholarship distribution programme organised by the Malabar Charitable Trust here on Thursday, she said education is an ornament for every girl student. Scholarships worth ₹35.66 lakh were distributed to 442 girl students from 52 government and aided colleges in the district. All students should pursue quality education and secure good employment opportunities.

She advised the beneficiaries to utilise the scholarship amount wisely and emerge as outstanding students. "Malabar Charitable Trust is contributing to the building of society. The organisation has earmarked ₹200 crore for CSR initiatives during the current financial year. Its continued commitment to supporting students through scholarships every year is highly commendable," she said.

Emphasising the importance of women's education, she noted that educating one woman is equivalent to educating an entire society and urged students to focus more on their studies. While most companies generally spend two per cent of their profits on CSR activities, the Malabar Group is setting an example by allocating five per cent of its profits towards CSR programmes and undertaking meaningful social service.

P. Sharapuddeep, South Zone Head of Malabar Gold & Diamonds, said the Malabar Charitable Trust was established in 1999 and has been dedicating five per cent of the company's profits to social welfare activities. The initiatives include programmes aimed at creating a hunger-free world and several other community development projects.

He said the organisation is distributing scholarships amounting to ₹6.11 crore across Karnataka to support the education of 7,614 girl students.

RUDSET Director K.S. Sarita, Principal of Maharani's Women's Commerce and Management College P. Shivanna, and others were present at the programme.

"Development and environmental protection must go hand to hand"

MYSURU

Union Minister for Tourism and Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said that development and environmental protection can progress together, citing India's achievements under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the last 12 years.

Speaking at a World Environment Day programme in Mysuru on Friday, where saplings were planted as part of a nationwide campaign inspired by Prime Minister Modi's call for environmental conservation, Shekhawat said the initiative was not merely about increasing green cover but about reaffirming society's responsibility towards nature. Humanity must act as a trustee of nature rather than its owner. Land, water, air and the natural environment are sacred gifts that must be protected and preserved for future generations. They should be handed over in the same condition—or better—than they were inherited.

Expressing concern over environmental degradation caused by pollution, unchecked urbanisation, concretisation and excessive use of chemicals, the Union Minister warned that future generations would bear the consequences if people continued to exploit natural resources irresponsibly. He opined that tree plantation, sustainable living and the Mission LiFE initiative promoted by the Prime Minister could play a significant role in restoring ecological balance.

Describing environmental conservation as a moral responsibility, he said values of sustainability and respect for nature should be instilled in children from an early age. Such awareness would help create healthier and more responsible citizens.

Highlighting India's progress in recent years, he said the country had not only achieved rapid development but had also expanded its green cover, demonstrating that economic growth and environmental protection need not be mutually exclusive.

Referring to the tourism sector, Shekhawat said sustainability had emerged as a key concern at tourist destinations across the country. Appreciating Mysuru for its cleanliness and greenery, he said greater collective efforts were needed to ensure that tourist destinations remained clean, attractive and environmentally sustainable.

Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar said that environmental conservation and development must go hand in hand, and that sustainable growth is essential for the future of Mysuru and the country. Mysuru is blessed with rich environmental assets, including lakes, parks and forests, which contribute significantly to the city's identity and quality of life. However, there is the need for balanced development that respects and preserves nature. "Development is necessary, but it must be carried out in harmony with the environment. Both environmental protection and progress should move forward together," he said.

The MP said the plantation drive was not merely a symbolic exercise but an opportunity to create greater public awareness about sustainable development and environmental responsibility. He added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for the country makes it clear that India's growth should be accompanied by stronger green cover and increased commitment to environmental conservation.

Former mayor Sandesh Swamy, BJP City President L Nagendra, BJP Rural President Subbanna and others were present.

Mysuru's Jeevadhara Blood Centre bags national award in NGO category for lifesaving service

MYSURU

Jeevadhara Blood Centre, a blood bank in the cultural city of Mysuru has earned national recognition for its outstanding contribution.

The centre has been rendering uninterrupted service for the past 18 years and helping save more than a lakh lives with the support of thousands of blood donors.

The Karnataka State Blood Transfusion Council has announced that the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has selected Jeevadhara Blood Centre for a National Award for Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). The award will be presented during the Blood Donor NGOs Conference being organised in connection with World Blood Donor Day on June 16 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

According to the council, the blood bank has achieved a remarkable milestone by providing nearly 5,000 units of blood free of cost to poor patients over the past five years. It has also played a significant role in addressing blood shortages, benefiting thousands of patients in need.

In recognition of these efforts, Jeevadhara Blood Centre has been selected for the title of Best National Voluntary Organisation. The organisation has also been invited to attend the event and receive the award.

Expressing happiness over the recognition, Girish, Director of Jeevadhara Blood Centre, said that the organisation was not working for awards or accolades. The centre was established as a humble effort to help save lives through voluntary blood donation.

"The growth and success of the centre cannot be attributed to any one individual. It is the result of the selfless support extended by thousands of blood donors who have voluntarily come forward to contribute. Their cooperation is the real reason behind this recognition. Such awards increase our responsibility and inspire us to work even harder. I thank those who have selected our organisation for this honour," he said.

Service Behind the Honour

The award recognises Jeevadhara Blood Centre's sustained efforts over the last 18 years in mobilising more than 4,000 blood donors, creating awareness about blood donation through public programmes, and ensuring that the district does not face a shortage of blood.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY: TREES FREED FROM CONCRETE IN MYSURU

MYSURU

The environmental organization Parisarakkagi Naavu (We for Environment), in collaboration with RLHP and Youth for Sustainability, celebrated World Environment Day in a unique manner on Friday.

Hundreds of environmental activists, environmentally conscious citizens, and students gathered in front of JCE College and removed concrete and interlock tiles laid around 24 large roadside trees. Through this symbolic exercise, they sought to draw the attention of the Mysuru City Corporation and the Forest Department to the urgent need to remove concrete, interlock tiles, and asphalt laid around thousands of trees across the city.

In recent years, during road-widening projects, footpath construction, and other civic works, concrete, interlock tiles, and asphalt have often been laid around roadside trees. As a result, water and nutrients are unable to reach the roots, weakening them, stunting tree growth, and increasing the likelihood of trees being uprooted during the monsoon season.

To prevent such dangers, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) had issued directions to remove concrete, tiles, and asphalt within a one-metre radius around trees. Subsequently, the government also issued orders directing authorities to comply with the NGT guidelines. Environmental organizations and concerned citizens had repeatedly urged the Mysuru City Corporation and the Forest Department to implement these directives. While the authorities responded by removing concrete and tiles around trees on a few roads, thousands of trees across many other roads in the city continue to remain encased in concrete, tiles, and asphalt.

Concerned by this situation, Parisarakkagi Naavu, along with RLHP and Youth for Sustainability, organized Friday's symbolic awareness programme.

Addressing the gathering, environmental activist Parashuramegowda urged the MCC and the Forest Department to implement the NGT directives and government orders by removing concrete, tiles, and asphalt surrounding trees. The impacts of global warming and climate change are already severely affecting all forms of life, including humans, and stressed the need for collective efforts to protect and preserve urban trees.

Saraswathi of RLHP highlighted the importance of environmental conservation and said her organization has been actively creating awareness among youth, students, and rural communities about environmental protection.

Among those who participated in the programme were Major General (Retd.) Vombatkere, Javed Nayeem, N.S. Rangaraju, Kalachannegowda, Shyamala, Nabijan, Saraswathi, Ravi Bale, Lola Kumar, Krishna, Bhanu Prashanth, Gantaiah, Kamakshi Gowda, Vishwanath, Leela Shivakumar, Leela Venkatesh, Anjana, Mansoor Ahmed, Nasrulla, Sudheer, Shivashankar, Bangara Nayaka, Chetan, Prabha, Shobha, Bhagya, Shailajesh, Ganesh, Indira, Sushila, Mahadevaswamy, Sara Mishra, Jayalakshmi, Swapna, Srushti, Praveen, Charan, Prabhakar and several others.

World Environment Day: Cops plant saplings

MYSURU

As part of World Environment Day celebrations, a special Vanamahotsava was organised today at the Police Department's Firing Range grounds to promote environmental awareness through the planting of saplings, according to Police Commissioner Seema Latkar.

The programme was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Police Dr. Harshapriyamvada, K.S. Sundar Raj, and Siddanagouda Patil, along with senior police officers and department personnel, who collectively pledged their commitment to environmental conservation.

SIR begins in Karnataka; Final voter list on Oct 7

MYSURU

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has announced the schedule for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Karnataka, with the final electoral roll set to be published on October 7. October 1 has been designated as the qualifying date for the revision exercise.

According to the schedule, preparatory work, training of officials and printing of materials will be carried out from June 20 to 29. Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will undertake house-to-house verification from June 30 to July 29, while rationalisation of polling stations will be completed on July 29. The draft electoral roll will be published on August 5.

The period for filing claims and objections has been fixed from August 5 to September 4. Notices will be issued and claims and objections disposed of between August 5 and October 3. The final electoral roll will be published on October 7.

The Election Commission stated that maintaining the integrity of electoral rolls and preparing a clean and accurate voter database are essential for conducting free and fair elections. Intensive revisions were conducted regularly until 2002, but no comprehensive revision has been undertaken for more than two decades. Given the significant changes in the voter database during this period, the exercise has been considered necessary.

The revision aims to ensure inclusion of all eligible voters while removing the names of deceased, duplicate and otherwise ineligible electors. It will also address issues arising from rapid urbanisation and migration, which may have led to some voters being enrolled at more than one location.

As per Article 326 of the Constitution of India and Section 16 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, a person must be an Indian citizen, have attained 18 years of age on the qualifying date, be an ordinary resident of the concerned polling area, and should not be of unsound mind or disqualified from voting under any law in force.

Officials said the last Special Intensive Revision in Karnataka was conducted in 2002. Citizens can access details from the 2002 electoral rolls through the Chief Electoral Officer's website by entering particulars such as district, Assembly constituency, voter's name or relative's name. The District Administration has appealed to the public and political parties to extend full cooperation for the successful conduct of the revision exercise.

Protecting environment ensures better health through natural air: GTD

MYSURU

Chamundeshwari MLA G.T. Devegowda underscored the importance of environmental conservation, saying that protecting nature would contribute significantly to public health by ensuring access to clean, natural air. People must preserve forests and greenery and avoid destroying nature.

Speaking after inaugurating a World Environment Day programme organized jointly by the Mysuru City Corporation and the Forest Department at the Arogya Badavane Park in H-Block, Ramakrishnanagar, on Friday, he said every generation should leave behind a meaningful contribution for the future. Planting even a single sapling in an open space can provide life-sustaining oxygen. While development projects must keep pace with changing times, natural resources, forests, and trees should be protected. The Mysuru city's beauty had been preserved since the days of the Maharajas, must be maintained for future generations.

The MLA said it was the responsibility of all citizens to help transform city parks into green spaces by planting and nurturing trees. He appreciated the Mysuru City Corporation's decision to plant 15,000 saplings simultaneously and urged staff and civic workers to strictly follow the Commissioner's directions in implementing the initiative.

While planting trees is important, but the Forest Department must also ensure the removal of dangerous and weakened trees that pose a threat to public safety. Protecting forests is everyone's responsibility and illegal felling of trees can create serious environmental risks.

Devegowda advised parents to prepare food at home instead of frequently taking children to hotels and restaurants and said excessive consumption of outside food could adversely affect health, particularly because people are often unaware of the quality of cooking oil and ingredients used. It was important to maintain cleanliness in homes, surroundings, and streets as part of environmental protection. The residents adopt and care for individual saplings while using parks and public spaces.

Among those present were District Collector G. Lakshmikanth Reddy, Mysuru City Corporation Commissioner Shekhar Tanveer Asif, Conservator of Forests C. Ravishankar, Deputy Conservator of Forests G. Paramesh, Member Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority Nagaraj Siddappa Ankasadoddi, Mysuru Advocates' Association President S. Lokesh, and others.

'Three Officials Working Like a Trinity'

As part of the World Environment Day celebrations, Devegowda planted a sapling in the park at Arogya Badavane, Ramakrishnanagar. Senior officials from the district administration, the Forest Department, and the Mysuru City Corporation participated in the event.

QUICK READ

Free bus passes approved for students across Karnataka

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has granted in-principle approval to extend free bus pass facilities to school and college students across the state. The decision was taken at the Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar after he assumed office. According to an order issued by the Transport Department, students will be eligible to travel free on buses operated by KSRTC, BMTC, NWKRTC and KKRTC. The government said detailed guidelines and conditions for implementing the scheme will be announced separately. Currently, female students already enjoy free travel under the Shakti Yojana. The new initiative aims to ease the financial burden on students and promote access to education.

IIM Bangalore announces Distinguished Alumni Award

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) has announced the recipients of its Distinguished Alumni Award (DAA) 2026, recognising five alumni for their outstanding achievements and contributions in diverse fields. The awardees are Arun Pai, known as Bengaluru's "Footpath Mayor"; Rashmi Mohanty, Chief Financial Officer of SBI Cards; Manish Tiwari; Karthik Reddy; and Deepesh Shah. According to a release, the awards will be presented at a special ceremony scheduled for June 14 in Bengaluru.

New award launched to promote translated South Indian literature

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

To encourage and recognise excellence in translated literature, the Book Brahma Foundation and Bookworm Bookstore have jointly instituted the 'English Fiction of the Year' award. The award will honour the best creative literary work translated from any South Indian language into English. Books published in India or abroad between 2023 and 2025 are eligible for consideration. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh, a memento and a curated selection of books. The prize money will be shared equally between the original author and the English translator. Publishers, authors and translators must submit three copies of eligible works to the Book Brahma Foundation, Bengaluru, by June 30. For details, contact 94480 63150.

Pre-SIR mapping reaches 72% in Bengaluru; door-to-door voter verification from June 30

Despite opposition, officials achieved notable progress ahead of voter verification drive.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

With the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls scheduled to begin in Karnataka on June 20, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner and District Election Officer Maheshwar Rao said the city has achieved 72 per cent progress in the crucial pre-SIR mapping exercise.

The preparatory work involves mapping the 2025 electoral rolls with the 2002 electoral database to streamline the revision process and reduce the burden on voters during verification. Rao said Bengaluru has 8,023 polling

booths, and booth-level officers (BLOs) will be deployed at each location. Around 1,600 BLO supervisors will oversee the exercise, with a majority of the BLOs drawn from government schools.

The house-to-house voter verification drive will commence on June 30 and continue until July 27. During the exercise, BLOs will distribute enumeration forms that voters must complete and submit to ensure their names are retained in the upcoming draft electoral roll.

If a voter is unavailable during the visit, officials will leave the form at the residence and make at least three attempts to collect the completed document. Each form will contain the name and contact details of the BLO to facilitate communication and coordination with residents.

Following the verification process, the draft electoral roll will be published on August 5. Citizens will be allowed to file claims and objections until September 4, while the final electoral roll is scheduled for publication on October 7.

A meeting with representatives of various political parties was held to discuss the SIR process. During the interaction, several party leaders raised concerns over incomplete mapping in Bengaluru. While many rural districts in Karnataka have reportedly achieved more than 95 per cent mapping, the progress within GBA limits remains comparatively lower.

Speaking at the meeting, A Arun Prasad, State General Secretary of the Bahujan Samaj Party, said incomplete mapping could force voters to produce additional documents during verification visits. He observed that the process would have been more convenient had all voters been mapped in advance.

Meanwhile, Prabhu Bosco, General Secretary of the National People's Party, suggested establishing dedicated help desks at corporation offices and BangaloreOne centres. He said helpline numbers alone may not be sufficient due to the expected volume of queries and that physical assistance centres would help residents submit documents and track their SIR status more effectively.

CID busts exotic wildlife trafficking racket in Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka CID Forest Cell has busted an alleged exotic wildlife trafficking racket operating from Kumaraswamy Layout in south Bengaluru, arresting one person and detaining six others during a raid on an apartment.

Investigators recovered several exotic animals, including ball pythons, lizards and turtles, along with airport-tagged suitcases and traces of ganja. Officials suspect the accused were involved in the illegal import and trade of protected and exotic species.Among those named in the investigation are Raj Kamal, RV Hrithik and Girish Nag of Devanahalli. Authorities allege that the group frequently travelled to exotic pet trade hubs in Thailand and Malaysia.

Yellow Line not only cuts travel time, but boosts commuter fitness

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru Metro's Yellow Line, connecting RV Road and Bommasandra through the city's busy tech corridor, is delivering benefits beyond faster travel, with a new study revealing significant improvements in commuters' physical activity, wellbeing and overall quality of life.

The 18.9-km corridor, which has dramatically reduced travel time from nearly two-and-a-half hours by road to around 30 minutes, has encouraged thousands of commuters to shift from private vehicles and cabs to Metro services. According to a study conducted by the Indian Institute of Science and funded by the Biocon Foundation and Electronics City Industries' Association, many commuters are now walking 10 to 15 minutes daily as part of their journey to and from Metro stations.

The study surveyed 600 commuters between July 2025 and February 2026. Researchers first conducted a baseline survey before the Yellow Line's inauguration in August 2025 and followed it up with a phone survey six months later involving the same participants.

Before operations began, 83 per cent of respondents had indicated their willingness to switch to the Metro. At the time, 38 per cent relied on two-wheelers, 25 per cent used cabs, 21 per cent travelled in private cars and the remainder depended on public road transport.

Positive lifestyle changes

MANY RESPONDENTS REPORTED FEELING LESS TIRED AND MORE IN CONTROL OF THEIR DAILY SCHEDULES. THEY ALSO CITED IMPROVED WORK-LIFE BALANCE, GREATER SOCIAL INTERACTION DURING TRAVEL, FEWER DELAYS, LOWER FATIGUE LEVELS AND INCREASED ENERGY FOR PERSONAL AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES. THE FINDINGS SUGGEST THAT EFFICIENT PUBLIC TRANSPORT CAN CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO HEALTHIER URBAN LIFESTYLES.

Researchers found that 58 per cent of respondents were not meeting the World Health Organization's recommended minimum level of physical activity, defined as 600 Metabolic Equivalent of Task (MET) minutes per week. Health concerns were also common, with 18 per cent reporting diabetes, 15 per cent hypertension and 4.6 per cent respiratory illnesses.

The shift to Metro travel has helped address some of these concerns. The study noted increased physical activity through walking, improved mental wellbeing and reduced exposure to air pollution. Former two-wheeler users, who previously faced high levels of PM2.5 pollution during long commutes, now travel in climate-controlled Metro coaches with minimal direct exposure to outdoor pollutants.

ED arrests Deepak Cables MD in Rs 899 crore bank fraud case

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested K Venkateshwara Rao, Managing Director of Deepak Cables India Limited, in connection with an alleged bank fraud and money laundering case involving Rs 899.35 crore borrowed from a consortium of banks led by State Bank of India.

The arrest was made under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Following his arrest, Rao was produced before the ED Special Court in Bengaluru. The agency sought his custodial interrogation for further investigation, and the court remanded him to ED custody for 10 days.

The case originates from an FIR registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation against Deepak Cables India Limited, its Managing Director and others. According to the allegations, the company obtained loans worth Rs 899.35 crore from an SBI-led consortium and subsequently diverted the funds through illegal transactions.

The ED said its investigation revealed that the accused used multiple entities to furnish fake corporate guarantees and carried out sham transactions to secure additional loans. Investigators alleged that existing liabilities were concealed and forged documents were created to obtain fresh credit facilities from banks.

According to the agency, a substantial portion of the loan amount was diverted to several entities allegedly controlled by Rao. These transactions are suspected to be part of a larger conspiracy to siphon off bank funds.

As part of the probe, ED officials conducted searches at the company's premises, Rao's residence, office and other associated locations on May 21 and May 29.

RGUHS launches 'One Student, One Sapling' campaign on World Environment Day

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS), in association with Rotary Bengaluru Samruddhi, celebrated World Environment Day 2026 with a massive walkathon at Lalbagh and launched the "One Student, One Sapling" campaign to promote environmental awareness and sustainability.

Addressing more than 4,000 students who participated in the event, Bhagavan B. C. called upon every student to plant at least one sapling and take responsibility for nurturing it. He said the university remains committed not only to academic excellence but also to social responsibility, healthy living and environmental sustainability through various green initiatives.

Highlighting global environmental challenges such as climate change, global warming, water scarcity, biodiversity loss and pollution, he said campaigns like "One Student, One Sapling" are essential to fostering environmental responsibility among the younger generation.

The Vice Chancellor stressed the need to instil respect and love for nature in children and students from an early age. He expressed concern over society's growing disconnect from nature despite rapid technological and economic development. Simple actions such as planting trees, conserving water, reducing plastic use and maintaining cleanliness can collectively create a significant positive impact, he added.

Kona Vamsi Krishna, who participated in the programme, said environmental conservation is the responsibility of every citizen and should become a way of life rather than a one-day observance.

The walkathon began at the West Gate of Lalbagh and passed through key city roads before concluding near the Kempegowda Tower inside the garden. Students carried placards and raised slogans promoting environmental protection throughout the route.

The celebration concluded with students taking selfies with saplings, symbolising their commitment to building a greener and more sustainable future. Other dignitaries, faculty members and Rotary representatives were also present at the event.

KRISTU JAYANTI UNIVERSITY BAGS RS 1 CRORE SPARC RESEARCH GRANT

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Kristu Jayanti University has secured a prestigious research grant of over Rs 1 crore under the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC), an initiative of the Union Education Ministry aimed at strengthening India's research ecosystem.

The project, scheduled for implementation from June 2026 to May 2028, is titled "Development of Stimuli-Responsive Theranostic Nanocomposites of Marine- and Plant-Derived Neuroprotective Agents for Parkinson's Disease: An Integrated Approach."

The research is led by K Shinomol George as Principal Investigator, while Dileep Francis serves as Co-Principal Investigator.

The project will be carried out in collaboration with Sophia University and aims to explore innovative neuroprotective therapies for Parkinson's disease through advanced nanocomposite technology. University authorities said the grant reflects the institution's growing contribution to high-impact scientific research and international academic collaboration.

Techie dies after being flung off flyover in Marathahalli crash

BENGALURU

A 26-year-old software engineer was killed in a horrific road accident on the Marathahalli flyover after a car collided with the motorcycle on which she was travelling as a pillion rider, causing her to be thrown off the bridge onto the service road below.

The victim, N T Krishna Sri, hailed from Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh and was employed with a private company in Bengaluru. She was residing in a paying guest accommodation in Ashwath Nagar.

HC refuses to quash case over alleged sale of police quarters land

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has declined to quash criminal proceedings against a man accused of selling land on which police quarters stand in Bengaluru's Malleshwaram area, observing that allowing such actions could set a dangerous precedent for public properties.

A single-judge bench of M Nagaprasanna made the remarks while hearing a petition filed by Srinath Nagaragadde seeking to quash the case registered against him.

During the hearing, Justice Nagaprasanna expressed concern over the allegations and remarked that if such claims were accepted without scrutiny, even the High Court building itself might not be safe in the future. The court also commented on the audacity involved in allegedly selling land on which police quarters have existed for many years.

The matter has been posted for further hearing on June 9.

Counsel for the petitioner argued that the disputed property belongs to the first accused in the case, M R Mahalakshmi, and that she had sold it as her own property.

BOON FOR OFFENDERS

Government offers 50% discount on pending traffic fines

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a major relief to vehicle owners, the Karnataka government has announced a 50 per cent discount on fines for old pending traffic e-challan cases and long-pending violations registered by the Transport Department. The move is aimed at encouraging motorists to clear outstanding dues and reducing the backlog of unresolved cases.

An order to this effect has been issued by V.S. Pushpa, Under-Secretary of the Transport Department. According to the notification, the concession will apply to all traffic e-challan cases registered by the Police Department before May 2026 that remain unpaid. In addition, pending cases registered by the Transport Department between 1991 and 2022 will also be eligible for a 50 per cent reduction in penalties.

Vehicle owners can avail themselves of the benefit from June 21 to July 10. During this period, offenders can settle their cases by paying only half of the outstanding fine amount. Officials expect the scheme to encourage thousands of motorists to clear pending violations that have accumulated over several years.

This is not the first time the state government has introduced such a measure. Similar discount schemes in the past have received an overwhelming response from the public. During a special drive conducted in November 2025, around 77.41 lakh traffic violation cases registered by the Police Department were settled. The initiative generated nearly Rs 201 crore in revenue through discounted payments.

The Transport Department also benefited from the earlier scheme, with 902 cases being resolved and fines amounting to approximately Rs 29.66 lakh collected during the concession period.

Two workers die while cleaning boiler at Jigani chemical factory

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Two workers died and two others were critically injured after a chemical-related accident at a factory in the Jigani Industrial Area of Anekal taluk.

The deceased were identified as Munna Singh (45) and Lalu Singh (40), both natives of Uttar Pradesh. According to preliminary information, the workers had entered a chemical-filled boiler at the Kumar Organic Products Limited facility to carry out cleaning work when the accident occurred.

Police suspect that the workers fell into a drainage section connected to the boiler and were overcome by a chemical reaction, leading to their deaths. The exact cause of the incident is being investigated.

Two other workers, Sumit Mandal and Vijay Kumar Singh, suffered serious injuries and were admitted to a private hospital, where their condition remains critical.

QUICK READ

Applications open for housing scheme in Gadag

CH NEWS, Gadag
The Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Nomadic Development Corporation has invited 225 applications for housing scheme in Gadag district for 2026-27. Applications can be submitted from June 6 to June 20. Applicants must submit land ownership documents, caste and income certificates, Aadhaar card, recent photograph, ration card, voter ID and bank passbook copy. Applicants should obtain forms from Social Welfare Department or Assistant Director office of their taluk and submit within the deadline. Nanda Manbaratti said in the official announcement urging eligible candidates to apply on time and complete verification process properly. Late applications will not be accepted strictly.

Leaders clash over development claims in Magadi villages

CH NEWS, Magadi
A social media debate between Magadi BJP Taluk President Prasad Gowda and KPCC coordinator Madhu G R has sparked political discussion. Prasad Gowda said that people need jobs instead of free schemes while criticising the state government guarantee progra mmes. Madhu G R responded by challenging him in a WhatsApp group and invited him to join Congress for development. He asked BJP to show development work done in Magadi villages and clai med Congress would com plete remaining work. The exchange in the online gro up has created debate in Magadi politics and attrac ted attention from local re sidents and party workers.

Supporters demand cabinet post for Zameer Ahmed Khan

Protesters demanded fair recognition in Congress, cited by-election misinformation concerns, and saw participation from diverse community leaders

BENGALURU

A massive wave of protests was reported across Karnataka with supporters demanding that senior Congress MLA B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan be given a cabinet position in the state government.

Leaders and supporters held demonstrations including at Freedom Park in Bengaluru, raising slogans and urging the Congress leadership and AICC high command in Delhi to intervene. Organisers said the protests were held peacefully but reflected strong public sentiment across districts including Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mandya, Kolar, Haveri, Kalaburagi and Koppal.

Supporters said Khan has consistently worked for welfare schemes, development programmes and community support using both government initiatives and personal efforts over the years. They added that he has been a symbol of hope for poor and minority communities and deserves a key responsibility in the present government structure.

The protesters said their demand is not against any political party but a request for fair recognition of leadership contribution within the ruling Congress government. They also urged authorities to look into alleged misinformation and confusion created during recent by elections and take appropriate action against those responsible. The protest saw participation from leaders of multiple communities including religious heads, Dalit organisations, Valmiki community representatives and various social activists.

Organisers claimed that thousands of supporters from different districts joined the demonstrations showing strong backing for the demand across the state. They appealed to the Congress high command to consider the request positively and ensure justice in political representation within the government system.

B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan is a senior Congress MLA in Karnataka holding portfolios such as Housing, Waqf and Minority Welfare with key administrative responsibilities in welfare delivery. Since 2023 his department has focused on large scale housing programmes for economically weaker sections including slum development and low income housing schemes.

Officials say thousands of houses have been distributed under state housing drives and subsidy based support has been expanded for disadvantaged groups across Karnataka.

Supporters said his work in housing and welfare implementation has strengthened his leadership profile and increased expectations for a higher role in the state cabinet.

The movement concluded peacefully with leaders stating that they will continue democratic protests and discussions until their demand is addressed through proper political dialogue.

Judge appeals citizens use Lok Adalat effectively

National Lok Adalat on July 11 will resolve pending cases through conciliation; a special Lok Adalat on July 18 will handle cheque bounce cases

CHITRADURGA

District Legal Services Authority Member Secretary and Senior Civil Judge D J Sudeen Kumar has appealed to the public and litigants to make full use of Lok Adalats as a simple and fast way to settle court cases. He told reporters at the District Court Mediation Centre that Lok Adalats are being conducted as per the directions of the National and State Legal Services Authorities to help people resolve disputes through mutual agreement.

He said the National Lok Adalat will be held in all courts of the district on July 11 and steps are being taken to settle pe nding cases through conciliation with prior notice to both parties. He added that people ca n approach the authority directly or through lawyers to include their cases for mediation so that disputes can be resolved without lengthy court procedures.

He also announced a special Lok Adalat on July 18 exclusively for cheque bounce cases under the Negotiable Instruments Act to provide quicker relief to both complainants and accused. He said the Supreme Court is promoting Lok Adalats under the "Samadhan Samaroh" initiative to encourage amicable settlement of disputes and reduce case burden on courts. He informed that under the Samadhan Samaroh programme scheduled on August 21, 22 and 23, mediation is being conducted for selected pending cases forwarded from higher courts. He added that district and taluk legal service committees are actively supporting the process and parties have already been informed to participate in mediation proceedings.

He urged citizens to avoid unnecessary litigation and take advantage of Lok Adalat services for faster and cost effective justice delivery. Officials said the Legal Services Authority can be contacted at district and taluk levels for more details regarding case settlement programmes and legal assistance services for the public and stressed the importance of awarene ss among citizens to strengthen alternative dispute resolution mechanisms for better justice de livery system across the district.

Balakrishna, a five-time MLA, said he aspires for a ministerial post but will respect the party high command's decision

Congress is stronger under new CM leadership: MLA Balakrishna

MAGADI

MLA H C Balakrishna said that the Congress party has become stronger under the leadership of the new Chief Minister and expressed confidence that the party will return to power again in the 2028 Assembly elections.

Speaking to reporters at his residence, he said former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah laid a strong foundation for the party and the new leadership now has the responsibility to build on it and further strengthen both governance and organisation.

He said he is hopeful that the new Chief Minister will govern effectively and ensure continued public support for the Congress in the coming years.

Responding to questions about cabinet expansion, Balakrishna said he has served as a five time MLA and naturally aspires for a ministerial position but will respect the decision of the party high command.

He added that he is not making any special lobbying efforts and trusts the leadership to consider his service, loyalty and experience while making decisions.

On the audio controversy involving Zameer Ahmed Khan, he said the leader belongs to an important community and should get fair opportunity and added that the high command will verify facts before taking any decision.

He also said cabinet responsibilities are decided based on merit and representation and not by taking away one leader's portfolio and giving it to another.Balakrishna said the party will consider regional balance and community representation while allocating responsibilities across districts.

He expressed confidence that internal differences will be resolved by the high command and stressed unity within the party.Leaders including TAPCMS president Shivaprasad and several Congress functionaries were present during the interaction where political developments and future election strategies were discussed and party members expressed optimism about strengthening the organisation at the grassroots level across the region.

C Krishniah Chetty launches jewellery expo in Mysuru

MYSURU

C. Krishniah Chetty Group of Jewellers, a 157-year-old legacy brand, has launched an exclusive four-day jewellery exhibition in Mysuru. The event is being held from June 5 to June 8, 2026, at Hotel Grand Mercure, bringing together heritage craftsmanship and modern jewellery designs under one roof.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Indian actress and model Roshni Prakash, marking the beginning of a showcase that highlights rare gemstones, fine gold creations, and innovative jewellery designs. The brand, known for serving royal families and jewellery connoisseurs for over a century, is presenting pieces that combine tradition with contemporary style.

Company representatives said the exhibition aims to connect with customers in Mysuru and showcase collections that reflect both artistic excellence and emotional value. The display includes pearls, emeralds, rubies, amethysts, citrine, turquoise, and diamonds, each designed with detailed craftsmanship to suit both traditional and modern preferences.

Speaking at the event, Roshni Prakash said the jewellery pieces represent stories, emotions, and cultural heritage. She appreciated the craftsmanship and said visitors would value the attention to detail in every design presented at the exhibition.

Mr. Gopal Singh, Head of Store at C. Krishniah Chetty Group, said the brand continues to focus on meaningful jewellery that blends beauty with purpose. He also introduced the crash.club collection, featuring lab-grown diamonds created using advanced technology with reduced environmental impact, promoting sustainable luxury.

The company stated that the Mysuru showcase offers exclusive collections, expert consultations, and special offers for customers, making it a unique experience that combines heritage, innovation, and responsible luxury for visitors.

Can sustainable fashion reduce textile pollution impact?

RASHIDA AAMIR

Where do clothes that we no longer wear go? Most of the time they end up in landfills. Textile recycling – the process of recovering and reprocessing textiles and giving them a second life – is one solution to this increasing issue. A 2022 paper by Fashion for Good showed that India generates approximately 7,800 kilotonnes of textile waste annually and in a report by CSTEP revealed that the textile industry is the third-largest contributor to dry municipal solid waste, following plastics.

A major factor contributing to textile waste is fast fashion, the mass-production of inexpensive trendy clothing made from synthetic fibers which are worn one or two times before getting discarded. The environmental impacts of fast fashion are high greenhouse gas emissions, heavy water consumption, large-scale textile waste generation, and significant volumes of microfibers entering the oceans each year.

Ruqaiyah Dharnojwala, a senior social worker, shared her experience on discovering

textile-to-textile recycling and how it motivated her to start a collection drive in her community. "I was inspired by people converting old scraps into new fabric and wondered if there was a way we could recycle our clothes too." Dharnojwala searched vigorously for a perfect place and came to find 'Sahaas Zero Waste: Textile Recovery Facility', which turns clothes into yarn through the process of 'spinning' and then turns it into a new fabric which can be worn.

Dharnojwala has been running this collection drive for 4 years, when she initially started, "It started in small numbers of people dropping off their clo thes but as more and more people have found out about it, the numbers have increased." Stating that around 250 people participated in the drive in May this year. "After the drive closes, the clothes get separated into two piles, clothes which are in good condition and can be reworn are donated to people in need and clothes which cannot be reworn due to its poor condition and are sent to Sahaas Zero Waste."

"Now when I buy clothes, I pay more attention to its quality and how long I can wear it," Dharnojwala reflected on her buying habits changing and encouraged others to practice a

similar mindset, "we should purchase mindfully and choose durable clothing." Reflecting on her first visit to Sahaas Zero Waste factory, "I didn't get to see much but while observing the workers, I noticed how time consuming the process must be, from sorting through large amounts of clothes, separating multi-fiber blends, and even fa cing dangers of getting contamination from dyes and finishes"

Dharnojwala suggested that when brands design clothes, they should reduce blended fiber ratios, improve fiber labeling, and be in coordination with textile recycling factories from the very beginning. With high collection rates, better fiber traceability, accountability from brands, and policy enforcement for reduction of textile waste from design to disposal, textile recycling will stand a stronger chance towards saving our planet.

FIZA MALL LAUNCHES LIAR'S UNO BATTLE EVENT

MANGALURU

Fiza by Nexus Mall in Mangaluru is hosting the exciting Liar's UNO Battle event for families, friends, and gaming lovers. Participants can join the competition from 5th to 7th June between 12:30 PM and 9:00 PM at the Upper Ground Floor Central Atrium. Open to participants aged 5 years and above, the event offers a chance to win a cash prize of 10,000 rupees. Customers can collect UNO cards from Funkey's and Baby Toys store inside the mall and easily take part in the game. Organisers said the three day event will bring fun, competition, and community bonding for visitors of all age groups visiting the mall. Participants can relax, enjoy friendly competition, and test their bluffing skills while spending quality time with family and friends during the event. Fiza by Nexus Mall invites everyone to take part and promises an entertaining experience filled with games excitement and rewards for winners.

CEO orders safe drinking water in district hostels

KARWAR

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. Dileesh Shashi has directed officials to ensure the supply of clean drinking water in all student hostels across the district. He gave the instructions while chairing the District Water and Sanitation Mission Committee meeting held at the Zilla Panchayat hall on Friday.

Dr. Shashi asked officers from the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department to regularly check water sources and conduct laboratory tests of samples supplied to hostels. He stressed the need for continuous monitoring to ensure students receive safe and good-quality drinking water without interruption.

He also instructed hostel authorities and water department officials to work in close coordination to maintain water safety standards. He said regular testing of drinking water in schools and Anganwadis must be carried out to protect the health of children and ensure hygiene standards are maintained in all institutions.The CEO further said that after drilling new borewells, steps should be taken to improve groundwater levels in surrounding areas. He suggested installing water recharge systems to keep borewells functional and sustainable in the long term, especially in water-scarce regions.

NABARD SUPPORT INITIATIVE

Farmers training centre launched in Baddepalli village

YADGIR

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said Yadgir and Raichur are aspirational districts aimed at overall development with support from all stakeholders. She inaugurated Farmers Training and Common Facility Centre at Baddepalli to support agricultural conservation and farmer income growth. She highlighted that Yadgir faces low female literacy poverty weak infrastructure shortage of teachers and low per capita income.

The district produces 22500

metric tonnes of groundnuts and the centre will promote processing value addition and women empowerment.

The initiative will help farmers access markets through e commerce platforms like Amazon and Flipkart and improve branding and income. The Farmers Training and Common Facility Centres under MPLADS and NABARD aim to reduce post harvest losses and support rural enterprises.

The Baddepalli Mahila Raitha Producer Company runs this women led unit focusing on groundnut value chains and local employment.

MLA Sharanagouda Kandakura said the district suffers poverty migration poor services and needs jobs railway upgrades and highway development. Farmer producer organisation cheques were distributed and progressive farmers were honoured at the event attended by senior officials and dignitaries. Officials said the project will strengthen groundnut processing in Yadgir improve prices for farmers create jobs for women and build strong rural economy.

The facility has capacity of 648 metric tonnes annually and will produce roasted groundnuts butter oil and deoiled cake using procurement from APMCs and farmers. The minister stressed digital registration of products wider branding and strong sales growth in the first year through online platforms. She said equal cooperation between central state and district bodies is needed to remove backwardness and ensure sustainable development.

The centre is expected to become a model for women led agro processing units and boost agricultural income in the region. The event marked a significant step for rural development in Yadgir with focus on agriculture women empowerment and better market access. Leaders expressed hope that the initiative will reduce poverty improve education and create sustainable livelihoods for farmers and women in Yadgir district in the coming years through coordinated government efforts and support from all stakeholders.

QUICK READ

Amit Surya inspires with green birthday celebration

CH NEWS, Magadi
Eight year old Amit Surya from Nataraja Layout in Magadi town celebrated his birthday in a simple and eco friendly way by avoiding cake and using saved money to buy over hundred flower and fruit saplings. He distributed the saplings to Vasavi Vidyapeeth school and nearby residents as a birth day gesture encouraging environmental awareness and green pra ctices. Tea chers headmas ter and local people appreciated his initiative calling it a role model act for other children and elders in society. He has become an inspiration for en vironmental care and sustainable living among young students.

Street vendors' convention to press 10 demands

CH NEWS, Raichur
A convention of street ve ndors under the Kalyana Karnataka Street Vendors Association will be held in Raichur on June 6, announced leaders of the organisation. The event, organised with the support of the Karnataka Pra desh Congress Committee, aim s to highlight 10 key demands of street ven dors across the region, including establishment of dedicated vending zones and proper implementation of welfare schemes. Organisers said the convention is being held to draw govern ment attention to long- pe nding issues faced by vendors in all seven districts of Kalyana Karnataka. Aro und 3,000 street vendors are expected to participate in the progra mme, which will be inaugu rated by Minister Dr. Sharanapr akash Patil. Local MLAs and civic officials are also expected to attend. Leaders said a bike rally will be held before the event, star ting from Shettibhavi Circle to Pandit Siddarama Jambaladinni Rangamandir.

DC calls for collective environmental responsibility

Jaibunnisa highlighted environmental destruction's health impacts, urging conservation efforts and noting nature protects humanity when preserved

MANGALURU

Deputy Commissioner Darshan H.V. on Friday emphasized that environmental protection is a collective responsibility and urged citizens to maintain cleanliness in their surroundings to safeguard all forms of life.

He was speaking after inaugurating World Environment Day celebrations jointly organised by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, and the Forest Department at KPT in Mangaluru.

The Deputy Commissioner said that clean air, water, and food are essential for the survival of all living beings. He noted that environmental degradation is increasing due to modern lifestyles and growing consumption patterns, and called for greater awareness and responsibility among citizens to preserve nature for future generations.

"If every individual protects the environment around their home, society as a whole will benefit from a healthier and safer ecosystem," he said, stressing the importance of grassroots action in environmental conservation. District Legal Services Authority Member Secretary Jaibunnisa also addressed the gathering, highlighting the impact of environmental destruction on human health. She urged people to actively participate in conservation efforts and stated that nature, if protected, would in turn protect humanity.

As part of the celebrations, prizes were distributed to winners of various competitions held to promote environmental awareness. Seed balls and cloth bags were also distributed to encourage eco-friendly practices among participants.

Earlier in the day, a rally from Yeyyadi to KPT was organised as part of the World Environment Day observance. The rally was flagged off by Principal District Judge Basavaraj and saw participation from students, officials, and members of the public. The programme reflected a coordinated effort by multiple departments in Karnataka to promote environmental awareness and encourage sustainable living practices among citizens.

District issues monsoon safety advisory in Udupi

UDUPI

With heavy rain and strong winds expected over the next seven days, Udupi district authorities urge residents to stay alert and follow safety protocols.

The District Disaster Management Authority has issued a comprehensive monsoon safety advisory for Udupi District following an Orange Alert issued by the India Meteorological Department and the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre for the coastal region.

Authorities have urged residents to remain cautious as heavy rainfall, strong winds, and lightning activity are expected over the next several days. The Deputy Commissioner and district officials have appealed to the public to stay indoors during adverse weather conditions and avoid unnecessary travel during periods of intense rain or wind.

Residents, including children and outdoor workers, have been advised to take shelter in safe buildings during thunderstorms. Farmers have been specifically instructed to suspend agricultural activities during heavy rain and lightning to prevent accidents and loss of life.

Fishermen and tourists have been strictly warned to avoid entering rivers, lakes, and the sea during the alert period. Officials stressed that coastal and waterbody areas may become highly dangerous due to rough weather conditions.

The advisory also cautioned people against standing near weak or dilapidated buildings, tall trees, electric poles, or broken power lines, as these pose significant risks during storms. Residents living in landslide-prone and vulnerable areas have been advised to contact tahsildar offices or gram panchayat authorities and shift to designated caution centres if necessary. Those residing in structurally weak houses have been encouraged to relocate temporarily to safer shelters to avoid risk during the ongoing weather alert. District and taluk-level officers, along with nodal officers and local disaster management committees, have been instructed to remain on duty and ensure rapid response in case of emergencies.

The public has been informed that assistance and updates can be obtained through District and Taluk Disaster Management Control Rooms or nearby tahsildar offices acr oss Karnataka. Authorities reiterated that strict adherence to safety guidelines is essential to prevent loss of life and property during the monsoon season.

Dowry and the Cost of Human Lives

OISHANI MUKHERJEE

In India, the practice of dowry was banned on May 1, 1961, with the enactment of the Dowry Prohibition Act. More than six decades later, however, the question remains: has dowry truly disappeared, or has it simply taken on different forms under the names of gifts, shagun, or contributions made for a daughter's well-being?

According to the latest available National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, India recorded 5,737 dowry deaths in 2024 and 6,156 in 2023, averaging nearly 17 deaths every day. Despite legal prohibitions and growing awareness, dowry-related violence continues to affect thousands of women across the country.

The recent death of Twisha Sharma on May 12, 2026, just five months after her marriage, brought renewed attention to the issue. Twisha's family has alleged that she was subjected to harassment over dowry demands by her husband and mother-in-law. The accused have denied the allegations, and the case remains under investigation.

Independent women's rights activist Shashwati Sahoo said the persistence of dowry reflects deeper social and institutional failures. "Despite being illegal, the dowry system persists due to weak enforcement of laws, inadequate protection for women, and a lack of education and awareness," she said.

According to Sahoo, many dowry-related cases follow a similar pattern, where warning signs are ignored until it is too late. "The common pattern in such cases is the failure to protect women despite warning signs, with families often choosing to adjust, negotiate, or remain silent rather than report abuse due to social pressure," she said.

Another concern is the way some suspicious deaths are initially treated. Sahoo believes that misreporting dowry-related deaths as suicides or accidents can severely affect investigations and accountability. "It is deeply disturbing, as misreporting a dowry-related death as a suicide or accident can significantly alter the course of an investigation, especially when evidence is limited or not immediately apparent. It also undermines public confidence in the system's ability to protect women and hold perpetrators accountable," she said.

The justice system also faces challenges. With more than 83,000 dowry-related cases pending in courts, many families are forced to endure long legal battles while seeking justice. "Prolonged delays in justice can weaken public faith in the judicial system and discourage victims and their families from coming forward," Sahoo said.

When asked what steps are needed to address the issue, she emphasized stronger implementation of existing laws, faster investigations, stricter accountability for offenders, and greater public awareness.

Despite being outlawed for several decades, dowry continues to persist. While its form may have evolved over time, the underlying mindset remains unchanged. Material gain is still too often valued above the lives, dignity, and well-being of women.

DC urges climate action report preparation in Koppal

KOPPAL

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Suresh B. Itnal has directed officials to prepare a detailed report on the implementation of the climate change action plan in Koppal district. He gave the instruction during the valedictory ceremony of a training workshop held at the Zilla Panchayat Samiti hall on Friday, organised in collaboration with EMPRI and the Karnataka State Council of Science and Technology. Dr. Itnal said it is important for all departmental officers to clearly understand the performance indicators of the climate change action plan. He asked them to work seriously on preparing a proper report that reflects the district's progress in implementing these measures. He also stressed the need for coordinated efforts among departments to achieve climate-related goals effectively.

Police recover stolen gold in Bantwal case

MANGALURU

Mangaluru police have successfully recovered stolen gold jewellery and arrested two individuals in connection with a house burglary registered under FIR No. 71/2026 in Bantwal taluk.

The case was investigated by the Dakshina Kannada District Police following a complaint lodged at the Bantwal Town Police Station. Acting swiftly on leads, the police team traced and recovered the stolen property within a short period.

The seized items include a gold mangalsutra necklace and a pair of gold earrings, with an estimated total value of around ₹2.5 lakh. Officials confirmed that the recovery was made after coordinated efforts by the local investigation team.

Two suspects have been arrested in connection with the case. One is an 18-year-old resident of Bantwal taluk, while the other is a 22-year-old individual from outside the state. Both have been charged under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code, including house trespass and theft.

Police stated that the arrests were made based on detailed investigative leads gathered during the initial stages of the probe. The swift action helped ensure the recovery of stolen valuables and prevented further disposal of the property.

Authorities have urged the rightful owners of recovered items to visit the police station, identify the jewellery through proper verification, and claim their belongings.

Officials also highlighted that the successful operation reflects the efficiency and alertness of the district police in tackling property-related crimes. They emphasized that such coordinated efforts are essential to maintaining public trust and ensuring safety in the region.

The department further encouraged citizens to report suspicious activities promptly, noting that quick communication with law enforcement plays a crucial role in solving cases effectively across Karnataka.

KRRS and Hasiaru Sene protested at Gollaleshwar Agro Agency over alleged insult to farmer Dattu Pujari

Farmers protest agro agency in Afzalpur incident

AFZALPUR

Tension prevailed in Afzalpur on Thursday after farmers staged a protest against a local agro agency, alleging mistreatment of a farmer who had gone to purchase fertilizers.

Members of the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Hasiaru Sene gathered at the Gollaleshwar Agro Agency and expressed strong anger over the alleged incident. Protesters claimed that farmer Dattu Pujari was insulted when he visited the agency to buy agricultural inputs, leading to widespread resentment among the farming community.

The agitators accused the agency owners of disrespectful behaviour towards farmers and demanded strict action against those responsible. As the protest intensified, demonstrators locked the agro centre and raised slogans condemning the alleged misconduct.

The situation briefly turned tense when farmers and agency representatives engaged in a heated exchange at the site. As emotions escalated, there was concern that the protest could turn more volatile.

Police and officials from the Agriculture Department quickly arrived at the spot to bring the situation under control. They intervened between the two sides and ensured that law and order was maintained in the area.Authorities later assured the protesting farmers that their complaints would be investigated and appropriate action would be taken based on findings. Officials also appealed for calm and urged both parties to cooperate during the inquiry process.

Farmer leaders reiterated that agricultural service providers must treat cultivators with respect, as farmers play a vital role in the food supply system. They warned that repeated incidents of alleged disrespect could lead to further protests in the future.

NITK joins tree plantation drive

MANGALURU

The National Institute of Technology Karnataka Surathkal conducted a tree plantation drive on its campus to mark World Environment Day, reinforcing its commitment to environmental sustainability and ecological awareness.

The initiative aligned with the national campaign "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam," launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which encourages citizens across the country to plant trees in the name of their mothers as a symbolic step toward environmental protection and biodiversity conservation.

The programme witnessed active participation from Prof. Subash C. Yaragal, Deputy Director of NITK Surathkal, along with several Deans, faculty members, administrative staff, and students. Their collective involvement turned the event into a strong demonstration of institutional unity and environmental responsibility. Saplings were planted across designated areas of the campus, highlighting the institute's ongoing effor ts to maintain and expand its gr een cover. Participants expres sed commitment to nurturing the planted saplings to ensure their long-term survival and contribution to the campus ecosystem.

Officials noted that such initiatives play an important role in raising awareness among students about environmental challenges such as climate change, deforestation, and pollution. They emphasized that educational institutions have a key res ponsibility in shaping environ mentally conscious citizens. The event also served as a platform to strengthen the me ssage of sustainable development and collective action. By joining the national campaign, the institute reaffirmed its role in supporting government-led environmental initiatives.

LOCAL AREA IMPROVEMENT

Kalaburagi launched 15 lakh cc road work

KALABURAGI

A new infrastructure development project was launched in Kalaburagi as the Mayor initiated the construction of a ₹15 lakh cement concrete (CC) road in Kanta Colony under Ward No. 43.

The project is being executed using savings from the 15th Finance Commission scheme, aimed at strengthening basic civic infrastructure across the city. Officials stated that the road construction work is part of a broader plan to improve connectivity and enhance living conditions in residential areas.

Mayor Varsha Jane formally inaugurated the work and highlighted that priority is being given to the development of essential infrastructure across various wards. She said that roads, drainage systems, and drinking water facilities are being taken up in phases to address long-pending civic needs of residents.

According to civic officials, the initiative is expected to significantly improve transportation within Kanta Colony, benefiting daily commuters and local residents. The upgraded road will also help in reducing waterlogging issues during the monsoon season and ensure smoother movement of vehicles.

Contractors involved in the project include Kumaraswamy Hiremath, Nagesh Mathpati, Shivakumar Panchal, Akash Chavan Udanur, and Parashuram Guttedar. Local leaders and residents were also present during the inauguration ceremony, expressing appreciation for the long-awaited development work.

Officials reiterated that similar development projects will continue across other wards in Karnataka under various government schemes to improve urban infrastructure and public amenities.

The launch of the CC road project reflects ongoing efforts by the municipal administration to address civic infrastructure gaps and ensure better urban living standards for residents in rapidly growing parts of the city.

Drainage failure triggers flooding in Mangaluru

MANGALURU

A video circulating on social media has highlighted severe civic infrastructure issues in the Konchadi locality of Mangaluru, where a scooter rider was seen struggling to navigate through heavily waterlogged streets due to drainage failure.

The footage, shared by social media user Sukesh J. Bhandary, shows inundated roads leading toward Nagakannika Temple, exposing the impact of a collapsed underground drainage system in the area. The visuals have sparked concern among residents about the recurring flooding problem during rainfall.

In his post, Bhandary urged the Mangaluru City Corporation and the City Police Commissioner to take immediate action to resolve the issue. He pointed out that the failure of the drainage line has left the locality highly vulnerable to flooding whenever it rains, raising questions about the maintenance of essential civic infrastructure. Residents of the area have expressed frustration over the repeated waterlogging, stating that the problem has persisted despite earlier complaints. They allege that inadequate maintenance of stormwater drains has worsened the situation, especially during the monsoon season.

With the southwest monsoon becoming active across coastal Karnataka in June, such incidents of flooding and water stagnation are increasingly being reported. Locals fear that continued neglect could lead to more severe disruptions in the coming weeks if corrective measures are not taken promptly. Citizens have called for urgent intervention to repair and up grade the drainage system to ensure safe and smooth movement for commuters. They stressed that proper urban planning and regular maintenance are essential to prevent recurrin g monsoon-related hardships.

City Highlights News That Matters

QUICK READ

Chinar Plantation Drive Begins in Himachal Pradesh

Shimla

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Friday launched the first phase of the Chinar plantation drive from his official residence, Oak Over, on the occasion of World Environment Day. The initiative aims to increase green cover and create awareness about environmental conservation. The Chinar tree, known for its dense shade, beauty and ecological value, is considered suitable for Shimla's climate. The Chief Minister also released four publications on forestry, environmental management and eco-tourism, highlighting conservation efforts, development projects and 75 major eco-tourism destinations across Himachal Pradesh.

Masked Duo Seen at Professor's Home before Murder

New Delhi

A masked man and woman carrying bags were seen entering the residence of Delhi University professor Debosmita Paul on June 3, the day investigators believe she was murdered. According to sources, the pair stayed inside the flat for nearly 30 minutes before leaving. Police are examining whether their visit occurred before or after the killing. Paul, an Assistant Professor at Shivaji College, was found dead in her Vasundhara Enclave apartment on Thursday. CCTV footage reportedly shows the duo arriving in a private cab and using the staircase instead of the lift to reach the flat.

India Reaffirms Bilateral Process for Deporting Illegal Bangladeshis

MEA confirms 13 foreign nationals killed in Malviya Nagar fire incident

NEW DELHI

India on Friday reiterated that it follows a structured bilateral mechanism for the deportation of illegal Bangladeshi nationals and expressed hope that Bangladesh would speed up the verification of pending nationality requests.

Speaking during the weekly media briefing, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India has clear legal procedures to deal with foreign nationals staying in the country illegally, including citizens of Bangladesh.

Jaiswal stated that all foreign nationals found living illegally in India are dealt with according to the law. He said deportation can only take place after Bangladesh confirms the nationality of the individuals concerned through an existing bilateral arrangement between the two countries.

According to him, India first refers such cases to Bangladeshi authorities for verification. Once nationality is confirmed, the deportation process is carried forward. He also noted that several requests sent by India are still awaiting a response from Bangladesh.

The spokesperson said India hopes these pending cases will be processed quickly so that deportations can be completed smoothly and efficiently.

His remarks came amid fresh allegations by Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), which claimed it had prevented 10 separate attempts by India's Border Security Force (BSF) to push people into

Bangladesh across different border locations over a 24-hour period.

The BGB claimed standoffs occurred in Jhenaidah, Jessore and Panchagarh, alleging a BSF attempt to move 30–35 people into Bangladesh was stopped. It said border surveillance and patrols have been intensified and vowed to prevent illegal entries. India maintains that migration and deportation issues are addressed through legal bilateral mechanisms.

The Ministry of External Affairs said 13 foreign nationals were among the 21 people killed in the Malviya Nagar fire in Delhi. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India is coordinating with the victims' embassies to provide assistance and complete formalities. Around 20 to 22 foreign nationals were injured. Meanwhile, hotel co-owner Lavkesh Bajaj has been arrested and remanded to four days of police custody as investigations into the deadly blaze continue.

Delhi Opens Oxygen Parks, Launches Green Drive

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta inaugurated 18 Namo Oxygen Parks and announced a major plantation campaign to improve Delhi's environment and tackle pollution

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Friday inaugurated 18 "Namo Oxygen Parks" and announced a plan to plant more than 15 lakh saplings across the national capital. The initiative was launched on World Environment Day 2026 along with several environmental programmes under the nationwide "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign.

The inauguration was held jointly with Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav at the Namo Oxygen Park in Maidangarhi. According to officials, the parks have been developed as green spaces that will help improve air quality, increase biodiversity and provide recreational areas for residents.

Addressing the gathering, Gupta urged citizens to actively participate in the plantation drive. She appealed to people to plant and care for saplings and suggested forming local committees to ensure that the plants grow into healthy trees. She called upon residents to support the government's efforts to create a cleaner and greener Delhi.

The Chief Minister said her government, which has completed just over a year in office, has received valuable guidance from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav in addressing pollution-related challenges.

In a message posted on social media, Gupta encouraged Delhi residents to join the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign by planting a tree in honour of their mothers and taking responsibility for its care.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said the Delhi government will introduce measures such as complete road carpeting to reduce dust pollution. Union Minister Bhupender Yadav said efforts are underway to curb emissions from roads, vehicles and industries through mechanised cleaning, monitoring systems and pollution-control technologies. He added that urban greening projects, including Namo Vans and eco-parks, are being expanded nationwide.

Supreme Court advised petitioner to approach Allahabad High Court over vacancies in Uttar Pradesh Human Rights Commission

SC Declines Plea on UP Rights Panel Vacancies

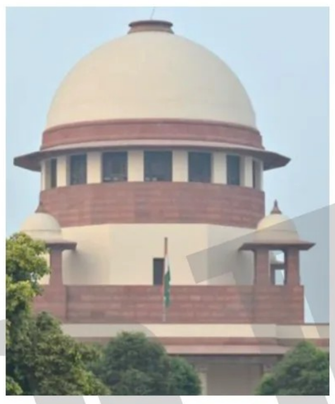
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday declined to hear a public interest litigation seeking directions to fill vacant posts in the Uttar Pradesh Human Rights Commission and to create a standard procedure for timely appointments in human rights bodies across the country.

A bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and V. Mahadevan questioned whether the matter could be directly raised before the apex court under Article 32 of the Constitution. The bench suggested that the petitioner should approach the Allahabad High Court, noting that High Courts have been monitoring such issues.

During the hearing, the petitioner's counsel argued that the Uttar Pradesh Human Rights Commission had been functioning without a chairperson for nearly two years and currently had only two members. The counsel also pointed out that a related matter concerning vacancies in the National Human Rights Commission was already pending before the Supreme Court.

However, the bench was not inclined to examine the issue. When the petitioner attempted to present details of vacancies in various state human rights commissions, the court indicated that it would not entertain the petition.



Following the court's observations, the petitioner withdrew the plea and sought permission to move the Allahabad High Court. The Supreme Court then dismissed the matter as withdrawn while granting liberty to pursue remedies before the High Court.

The petition sought prompt appointments to vacant posts in the Uttar Pradesh Human Rights Commission and a uniform system for timely appointments nationwide. Filed through advocate Aviral Saxena, it argued that long-standing vacancies had hampered the commission's work and pointed to similar staffing shortages in several other state human rights commissions.

NCC Trains Hundred Cadets In Historic Paramotor Course

GUWAHATI

The National Cadet Corps (NCC) has achieved a major milestone by successfully conducting its first-ever All-India Basic Paramotor Course, training 100 Senior Division Boy Cadets as certified basic paramotor pilots within a month.

The landmark programme concluded at the National Institute of Mountaineering and Adventure Sports (NIMAS) Centre in Guwahati. Officials said the achievement marks a significant step in expanding adventure and skill-based training opportunities for NCC cadets across the country.

The first All-India course was held from May 21 to June 4 and involved 50 novice cadets from 10 states and Union Territories. During the 15-day training programme, participants learned essential paramotoring skills, including ground handling, powered flight operations and aerial navigation.

According to officials, all cadets successfully completed the course and demonstrated determination, discipline and courage throughout the training. Each participant completed at least five solo flights before being awarded certification as a basic paramotor pilot.

The training was conducted by the NIMAS Paramotor Node in Guwahati, the only civilian institution in India authorised, apart from the Armed Forces, to provide certified paramotor training. The institute offered expert instructors, a Directorate General of Civil Aviation-compliant training curriculum and strict safety supervision during the programme.

The All-India course followed another successful initiative conducted by the NCC North Eastern Region Directorate from May 4 to May 19. In that programme, 50 cadets from northeastern states received similar paramotor training and earned certification.

NCC trained 100 cadets in under a month, setting a new milestone in aero-adventure training. It plans to train 60 girl cadets later this year and include paramotoring as a regular feature of its annual training curriculum.

Kerala Plans Insurance Cover for Forest Residents

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Forest Minister Shibu Baby John has announced plans to introduce an insurance scheme for people living in forest and hilly areas in association with local panchayats. He said the Forest Department would take responsibility for the safety of residents and provide compensation when required. Discussions with public sector insurance companies are underway for implementing the scheme.

The minister said the initiative is part of the state government's 100-day programme and aims to strengthen support for communities living near forests. He added that the department would work closely with farmers and local residents to ensure better cooperation in addressing wildlife-related issues.

To reduce human-animal conflicts, the government plans to extend solar fencing from the current 2,000 km to 2,500 km initially and later to 3,000 km across the state. The measure is expected to help protect people and farmlands in forest fringe areas. John also announced a detailed study on the growing tiger population in Wayanad. He said a tiger typically requires around 20 square kilometres of habitat, while available space in Wayanad is much lower, contributing to frequent human-wildlife encounters. The minister noted that the number of Rapid Response Teams should be increased to improve the department's ability to handle wildlife emergencies.

Former Andhra MLA Arrested in Land Grab Case

HYDERABAD

Cyberabad Police have arrested former Andhra Pradesh MLA Bolla Brahma Naidu in connection with an alleged conspiracy to grab government land worth around ₹1,000 crore.

The YSRCP leader, named as the main accused, was arrested in Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu, a day after the Telangana High Court rejected his anticipatory bail plea. Police said the case involves an alleged attempt to encroach on 10 acres of government land in Gandipet using forged government orders, fake revenue records and fabricated documents. Several other accused have already been arrested as investigations continue.

ARGENTINA SEEKS STRONGER ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIA

NEW DELHI

Argentina has called for deeper cooperation with India, highlighting the strong economic complementarity between the two countries and the growing opportunities for trade and investment.

Speaking at the India-Latin America and Caribbean Roundtable in New Delhi, Mariano Caucino said India and Argentina are naturally suited to work together due to their shared interests and complementary economies. He noted that relations between New Delhi and Buenos Aires are built on common values and mutually beneficial economic ties.

The envoy said India has become Argentina's sixth-largest trading partner and expressed confidence that cooperation between the two countries will continue to expand despite the geographical distance separating them. He also highlighted India's growing importance in global affairs, describing it as one of the world's five largest economies and the fastest-growing major economy. Caucino stressed the increasing significance of Asia and the Indo-Pacific region, noting that nearly 60 per cent of the world's population lives in this part of the globe. He said policymakers in Argentina recognise India's strategic role in shaping the global economy.

GREEN DRIVE

PM Plants Sapling, Reviews Surat Projects

SURAT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday marked World Environment Day by taking part in a tree plantation drive under the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign and reviewing major industrial and infrastructure projects in Gujarat's Hazira region.

As part of the programme, the Prime Minister planted a sapling and encouraged citizens to participate in environmental conservation efforts. The campaign, launched by him on World Environment Day in 2024, urges people to plant a tree in their mother's name as a symbol of respect and environmental responsibility. Over time, the initiative has grown into a nationwide movement aimed at increasing green cover and raising awareness about environmental protection.

During his visit to Gujarat, Modi also reviewed the progress of important industrial and infrastructure projects in Hazira, one of the country's major industrial hubs. Officials said he assessed ongoing development work, operational performance and future expansion plans at key industrial facilities in the area.

Hazira is known for its heavy engineering and manufacturing units, which play a significant role in India's industrial growth and defence production. According to officials, the region continues to contribute to advanced manufacturing while supporting logistics and infrastructure development.

The Prime Minister's review focused on improving efficiency and strengthening production capabilities at various industrial sites. Authorities said continued investments and development projects are expected to further boost economic activity in the region.

Large-scale plantation drives were held across Surat with active public participation. Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi said Prime Minister Modi encouraged greater use of public transport, cycling and walking to reduce fuel consumption, highlighting the government's commitment to sustainable development and environmental conservation.

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SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described movable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank,** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **23.06.2026 (10.30 AM to 11.30 AM),** for recovery of **Rs. 85,65,74,295.84 as on 01.06.2026** with further interest and cost thereon due to the **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank from (1) M/s Rafah-Ul-Muslimeen Educational Trust (Regd)** Represented by its Hon. Secretary – Mr. Taj Mohammed Khan, Farooqia Educational Complex, Umar Khayyam Road, Eidgah; Tilaknagar, Mysore 570 021, **(2) Mr. (Prof) Riaz Ahmed,** President &Trustee, **(3) Mr. Taj Mohammed Khan,** Secretary & Trustee, **(4) Mr. K C Shoukath Pasha,** Joint Secretary & Trustee, **(5) Dr. Abdur Rahman,** Trustee, **(6) Dr. M Sayeeb Ahmed**, Trustee, **(7) Mr. S P Ahmed Jan,** Trustee. **(8) Mr. (Prof.) Syed Akheel Ahmed,** Trustee, **(9) Mr. Ahmed Agha,** Trustee, **(10) Mr. Arif Mehkri,** Trustee, **(11) Dr. Muneer Ahmed,** Trustee, **(12) Mr. A S Sardar,** Trustee, **(13) Mr. Akbar Sayeed,** Trustee (now reportedly died), **Address of the above 2 to 13** M/s Rafah-Ul-Muslimeen Educational Trust (Regd), Farooqia Educational Complex, Umar Khayyam Road, Eidgah; Tilaknagar, Mysore 570021.
The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through **RTGS/NEFT** in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **22.06.2026 - 5.00 pm.** **(₹.In Lakhs)**

Lot	Description of the immovable	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental Value	Inspection date & time
1	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. A, Municipal Khatha No. A-1 to A-14, Situated at Laskar Mohalla, Mahadevpura Road, Udayagiri Mysore-570019. Measuring East to West 500 Feet and North to South 170+150/2 feet** and bounded on East By: Road West By: Road North By: Road South By: Road. Total extent of the property is 32,084 Sq ft. **Coordinates of the property, Latitude- 12.3243566, Longitude- 76.6749867**	₹. 672.00	₹. 67.20	₹. 1.00	15.06.2026 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM. with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer
2	All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. A, Municipal Khatha No. A-1 to A-14, Situated at Laskar Mohalla, Mahadevpura Road, Udayagiri Mysore-570019. Measuring East to West 500 Feet and North to South 170+150/2 feet and bounded on East By: Road West By: Road North By: Road South By: Road. Total extent of the property presently valued is 47916.99 Sq ft out of 80,000 Sq ft. **Latitude- 12.3243566, Longitude- 76.6749867**	₹. 932.00	₹. 93.20	₹. 1.00	
3	All that piece and parcel of 4 Acres of land in Sy. No. 93/2-P-1, Belavatha Village @ Manti Village, Kasaba Hobli, Mysuru Taluk, Mysuru District bounded by East By : Land of Sanjeev Nayak, West By : Land, Mohammed Saheb, North By : Purniahana Nala, South By : Land of Chikkanna. **Coordinates of the property, Latitude- 12.3537780, Longitude- 76.6470830**	₹. 324.00	₹. 32.40	₹. 1.00	
	TOTAL	1928.00			

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.080-25310066, 9866977711, 9486092152, 9901642631 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 05.06.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

NEPAL FOREIGN MINISTER BEGINS KEY INDIA VISIT

Nepal's foreign minister will hold high-level talks in New Delhi to strengthen cooperation in several sectors

NEW DELHI

Nepal's Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal arrived in India on a three-day official visit from June 5 to 7 at the invitation of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. The visit is expected to further strengthen the long-standing relationship between the two neighbouring countries.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, Khanal is scheduled to hold formal talks with Jaishankar in New Delhi on Saturday evening. The discussions will focus on reviewing bilateral ties and exploring ways to increase cooperation in important areas.

Officials said both sides will discuss matters of mutual interest, including trade, investment, energy security, digital and physical connectivity, and people-to-people relations. The talks are also expected to examine new opportunities for partnership and development between the two countries.

The visit is the highest-level engagement from the government of Prime Minister Balendra Shah since it assumed office in March this year. Nepal's Foreign Ministry said the visit follows a formal invitation from Jaishankar and forms part of the regular exchange of high-level visits between the two nations.

The ministry stated that the discussions aim to deepen cooperation across key sectors while strengthening the enduring and multifaceted relationship shared by India and Nepal. Both countries enjoy close cultural, historical and economic ties.

The visit comes at a time when relations between the two neighbours continue to expand across several areas. It also coincides with the recent visit of Rabi Lamichhane, who met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi earlier this week.

India remains one of Nepal's key development partners, supporting projects in infrastructure, health, education, power, agriculture, cultural preservation and capacity building over the past seven decades.

13 foreign nationals among Delhi hotel fire victims; embassy outreach underway

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday confirmed that 13 foreign nationals were among the 21 people killed in the devastating fire at a hotel in Delhi's Malviya Nagar area earlier this week. The government said it is coordinating closely with the affected countries and providing necessary assistance to victims and their families.

Addressing a weekly media briefing, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the deceased foreign nationals included four citizens of Nigeria, three from Kyrgyzstan and one each from Mozambique, Uzbekistan, Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and Iraq.

Jaiswal said around 20 to 22 foreign nationals were also injured in the blaze. The MEA is in contact with all concerned embassies and is facilitating paperwork, consular support and medical assistance.

The fire broke out on Wednesday at the Flourish Stay B&B in Malviya Nagar. Officials said the flames spread rapidly through the five-storey building, which reportedly lacked a fire No Objection Certificate (NOC) and had only one entry and exit point.

Police sources said several foreign guests were staying at the hotel for medical treatment. Among them were couples undergoing IVF procedures at a nearby hospital. In one case, a woman died while her husband survived and is receiving treatment. Another woman sustained severe injuries and was reportedly paralysed from the waist down, while her husband also remains under medical care.

Investigations into the cause of the fire and possible safety violations are continuing.

India and the United Kingdom are expanding climate cooperation to promote clean energy and sustainable growth

India UK Deepen Partnership for Net Zero Goals

NEW DELHI

On World Environment Day, India and the United Kingdom reaffirmed their commitment to tackling climate change through the India-UK Vision 2035 partnership, aimed at accelerating the transition towards a cleaner and more sustainable future.

The partnership focuses on expanding clean energy, increasing climate finance and encouraging innovation to help both countries achieve long-term net-zero goals. Officials from both nations said stronger cooperation is essential to address global environmental challenges and create lasting economic opportunities.

The collaboration received fresh momentum during high-level discussions in New Delhi between Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and UK Energy Security and Net Zero Secretary Ed Miliband. The leaders reviewed efforts to strengthen cooperation in renewable energy, technology development and sustainable infrastructure.

Under the partnership, both countries aim to increase investments in renewable energy projects, support technology transfers and encourage research in advanced green technologies. Areas of focus include battery storage, hydrogen energy and sustainable manufacturing. The initiative also seeks to unlock climate finance for developing economies to support environmentally responsible growth.

The British High Commission in India highlighted the importance of immediate action to protect the planet and said the Vision 2035 framework is helping convert climate goals into practical outcomes. The UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office described India as a major global power and said the partnership is laying the foundation for shared prosperity.

The climate agenda was also discussed during the recent India visit of UK Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper.

Andhra Begins Massive Seed Ball Campaign

AMARAVATI

On the occasion of World Environment Day, the Andhra Pradesh government launched an ambitious programme to prepare and distribute 2.5 crore seed balls to increase green cover and promote biodiversity across the state.

Deputy Chief Minister and Forests and Environment Minister Pawan Kalyan inaugurated the initiative at the Butterfly Park in NTR district on Friday. The programme is part of the state's long-term vision to increase forest and green cover to 50 per cent by 2047.

Pawan Kalyan personally participated in making seed balls along with public representatives, government officials, women from self-help groups, students and members of voluntary organisations. He also watched demonstrations of seed ball dispersal using drones and reviewed activities taking place across the state through a video conference.

The seed balls are being prepared using seeds of native tree species, including tamarind, neem, mango, soapnut, banyan, Indian gooseberry, teak, mahua, arjuna and white karonda. Officials said the preparation process has been launched at nearly 300 locations across Andhra Pradesh.

During his interaction with participants, the Deputy Chief Minister asked about the types of seeds being used and the number of seed balls being produced. He encouraged people to actively support the programme and praised children who explained the environmental benefits of seed balls.

Pawan Kalyan directed officials to complete the preparation of all 2.5 crore seed balls by June 15. Later, he inspected the process of releasing seed balls on hilltops with the help of drones.

In his World Environment Day message, he stressed the importance of protecting nature, reducing pollution and preserving biodiversity for future generations. He urged citizens to adopt sustainable practices and contribute towards building a cleaner, greener and healthier India.

He also instructed officials to establish yoga halls in every eco-tourism park after inspecting facilities at the Butterfly Park.

Yogi's Birthday Marked with Laddu Cake Celebration

VARANASI

Supporters of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath celebrated his 54th birthday in Varanasi on Thursday by cutting a 54-kg cake made of laddus and planting 54 saplings. The event was held at the 51-foot-tall Varad Anjaneya Hanuman Temple on the occasion of World Environment Day. Photographs highlighting government welfare schemes and development works were displayed at the venue.

A special prayer and aarti were conducted, with supporters wishing the chief minister good health, a long life, and continued leadership of the state. Yogi Adityanath was born on June 5, 1972.

THREE ARRESTED FOR SELLING MINORS INTO MARRIAGES

LUCKNOW

Lucknow Police have busted an inter-state gang allegedly involved in luring minor girls and selling them for marriage in Rajasthan. Three accused and a juvenile have been taken into custody in connection with the case.

According to police, the gang targeted vulnerable girls, especially those from poor families or without parental support. The accused allegedly befriended the girls, offered them outings and new clothes, and later planned to send them to Rajasthan in exchange for money.

The case came to light after two minor girls, aged 16 and 12, went missing from Ganihar village on May 12. Their grandmother filed a complaint, stating that a juvenile relative and a woman had taken them away on the pretext of meeting their mother.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Amit Kumar Anand said police formed four teams to investigate the case. Officers reviewed nearly 150 CCTV recordings and carried out technical and field surveillance. The girls were safely rescued on May 18.

During the investigation, police found that the girls had been taken to Rajasthan's Kota district with the intention of arranging marriages in return for payment. The arrested accused have been identified as Anurag Yadav, Mohammad Akhtar and Priya Patel, also known as Sheila.

Police said Priya allegedly worked with associates in Rajasthan and received between Rs 1 lakh and Rs 1.5 lakh for each arranged marriage. The gang reportedly sent photographs of girls to contacts in Kota before negotiating payments.

Two vehicles used in the crime have been seized. Police are continuing investigations to identify and arrest other people involved, including Rajasthan-based associates.

Shah Warns Against Demographic Changes In States

AGARTALA

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the Centre will not tolerate demographic changes in the states of West Bengal, Tripura and Bihar. Addressing personnel of the Border Security Force at the Lankamura Border Outpost, Shah said the government is taking all necessary steps to strengthen security along international borders. He stated that efforts are underway to close existing gaps in border protection. Shah also announced that the Centre's "smart border" project is in its final stage and will be introduced as a pilot initiative at seven to eight locations across the country to enhance border management and surveillance.

FIR Filed Over Cyber Attacks on CBSE Portal

NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has registered an FIR following a complaint by the Central Board of Secondary Education over coordinated cyber attacks on its Post-Result Services Portal, used by lakhs of students. The cyber unit has launched an investigation under the Information Technology Act.

CBSE said the portal, opened on June 2 for Class 12 verification and re-evaluation services, faced repeated attacks from multiple Indian and foreign IP addresses.

Preliminary findings show no data breach or unauthorised access. The board said its systems remained secure due to continuous monitoring and response measures. Police are investigating those behind the attacks.

IN THE COURT OF THE I ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & J.M.F.CAT DODDABALLAPURA
C. MIS.NO 248/2026

BETWEEN: 1. Smt. Bhavya. R, D/o Late Ramanjinappa W/o Late Anjinappa, Aged about 28 years, R/at, Yeshavanthapura, Yeshavanthapura Main Road, Nelavagilu Post, Hosakote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District - 562122. **2. Divya A** D/o late Anjinappa, Aged about 7 years, Since minor in age Rep. by Natural guardian her mother Smt. Bhavya. R R/at, Yeshavanthapura, Yeshavanthapura Main Road, Nelavagilu Post, Hosakote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District-562122.
....PETITIONERS
AND The Tahsildah, Doddaballapura Taluk Office, Dodddaballapura - 560 002. ...RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the petitioners has filed the above petition under section 13(3) of the Registration of Birth and Deaths Act 1969 for seeking direction of the respondent authority to issue death certificate of LAKSHMAMMA W/o RAMANJINAPPA who was died on 15/03/2020 in his native house at Gantiganahalli Village, Thubagere Hobali, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and the Hon'ble court has posted for the above petition on 07/07/2026 for hearing of the petition. If any person/s desire to oppose the said petition or claim or interest shall appear before the Hon'ble court in person or by pleader duly interested at 11.00AM failing which the said petition will be disposed on enquiry.
Given Under my hand seal of this Court today i.e., on. 05.06.2026

By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer, Prl Civil Judge & J.M.F.C. Doddaballapura

Amarnath M, Advocate, Sree. Gururaghavendra Law Chamber, Ground Floor, 6th Floor, 6th Cross, Opp. Court Complex, Doddaballapura.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division,Hassan

IFT No.05/2026.27, Dated: 30.05.2026

Tenders are invited from eligible Agencies in two cover system through KPPP portal of GOK (website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for Hassan District works as per KW-2 & 3 maximum tender amount is Rs.99.72 lakhs & minimum tender amount is Rs.32.20 lakhs. The last date of receipt of tender is 13-06-2026 upto 5.00 PM hours. Further detail can be had from KPP-portal and the above office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Hassan.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/189/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

Government of Karnataka
Rural Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Davanagere

No.EE/RDWS& SD/DVG/ AE-1/Tender -2026-27/315
Dated:-04.06.2026

Short Term E-Procurement Tender Notification

Tender is invited through e-procurement for Work Operation and maintenance of Multi village water supply scheme to Kengatte and other 7 Villages in Honnali Taluk, Davanagere District approved under 2215 –MVS O&M scheme(2026-27) for Rs292.75Lakhs and Operation and maintenance of Multi village water supply scheme to Nyamathi and other 3 Villages in Nyamathi Taluk, Davanagere District approved under 2215 –MVS O&M scheme(2026-27) for Rs 433.30 Lakhs in Two cover system by the Executive Engineer, RDWS & S Division, Davanagere on behalf the Governor of Karnataka, for registered PWD Contractors and also registered in e-Portal cell. Item rate tender as per standard bid documents only through e-Procurement in order to enhance the transparency in the tendering process and hence there will be no physical form of tender. Last date for submission of tenders on Dated:12.06.2026 at 5.00 PM. Further details can be obtained from this office Tel No:08192-262126 or through website http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/132/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27
Sd/- Executive Engineer RWS Division, Davanagere

MANDYA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES MANDYA-571401
Autonomous Medical Institution, Government of Karnataka)
Phone No: 08232-231003, 222086,231197, 224040, Fax-08232-231001
E-mail: mimsmandyaoffice@gmail.com, Website: www.mimsmandya@gmail.com

No: MIMS/Sup-D/Patho/E-tender/14B/2024-25 C-4 Dated: 04.06.2026

RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover Bid System)

Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences (MIMS), Mandya, invites Re-tender Call-4 for Supply of **Chemicals, Reagents, Kits, Consumables & etc Items** to the Pathology Department **(approximate amount Rs.32.00 Lakhs)** of MIMS Mandya from the Manufacture's or Authorized Dealers in two cover bid system as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act-1999 and Rules thereunder. Submission of e-tender and other details can be obtained in e-procurement portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

DIPR/MANDYA/SHIRDISAI/181/2026-27
Sd/- Chief Administrative officer, Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences, Mandya

Executive Engineer
Public Works Department,
No. 1, Buildings Division, SJP Campus, Bengaluru
Ph: 080-22255210

No.: EE/Bld.1/AE-4/2026-27/06 Date: 03.06.2026

Invitation for Tender (IFT) (2nd Call)

The above Department invites Tenders through e-procurement portal of GoK **(http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from eligible Tenderers for the below mentioned works. **Name of Work: 1)** Architectural/Interior/External Development and other Allied Consultancy Services for the proposed construction of Karnataka Bhavan-4 at Plot No. 5, Sector 17, Dwaraka, New Delhi. (Indent Number: PWD/2025-26/SE1137/Call-2). Approx. value of work (including GST): **Rs. 48.88 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 97,800/-.** Period of Completion: **24 Months** (including rainy season). **2)** Architectural/Interior/External Development and other Allied Consultancy Services for the Renovation and Improvement works to Karnataka Bhavan-2 (Sharavathi) at Sardar Patel Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi. (Indent Number: PWD/2025-26/SE1139/Call-2). Approx. value of work (including GST): **Rs. 14.55 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 43,700/-.** Period of Completion: **6 Months** (including rainy season). Cost of Document: As per KPP Portal. Last date for downloading Tender through e-procurement portal and submission through online: **10.06.2026 up to 5.00 PM.** Date of opening the Tender: as per KPP Portal guidelines. Further information can be obtained from the above office or from e-procurement portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/DD-C.P/1008/KSMCA/2026-27

IN THE COURT OF THE I ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & J.M.F.CAT DODDABALLAPURA
C. MIS.NO 247/ 2026

BETWEEN: 1. Smt. Bhavya. R, D/o Late Ramanjinappa W/o Late Anjinappa, Aged about 28 years, R/at, Yeshavanthapura, Yeshavanthapura Main Road, Nelavagilu Post, Hosakote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District - 562122. **2. Divya A** D/o late Anjinappa, Aged about 7 years, Since minor in age Rep. by Natural guardian her mother Smt. Bhavya. R R/at, Yeshavanthapura, Yeshavanthapura Main Road, Nelavagilu Post, Hosakote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District-562122.
....PETITIONERS
AND The Tahsildah, Doddaballapura Taluk Office, Dodddaballapura - 560 002. ...RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the petitioners has filed the above petition under section 13(3) of the Registration of Birth and Deaths Act 1969 for seeking direction of the respondent authority to issue death certificate of RAMANJINAPPA S/o Late Doddamuniyappa, who was died on 15/03/2020 in his native house at Gantiganahalli Village, Thubagere Hobali, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and the Hon'ble court has posted for the above petition on 07/07/2026 for hearing of the petition. If any person/s desire to oppose the said petition or claim or interest shall appear before the Hon'ble court in person or by pleader duly interested at 11.00AM failing which the said petition will be disposed on enquiry.
Given Under my hand seal of this Court today i.e., on. 05.06.2026

By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer, Prl Civil Judge & J.M.F.C. Doddaballapura

Amarnath M, Advocate, Sree. Gururaghavendra Law Chamber, Ground Floor, 6th Floor, 6th Cross, Opp. Court Complex, Doddaballapura.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
M.I & G.W.D.D. DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR

No.EE/MID/VJP/AE-1,4/4702/TND/2026-27/ 750 **Date:04.06.2026**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department, Division Vijaypur invites work tenders through "E-Procurement" from eligible contractor on item rate Tender for following works as per KTPP Act-2000 and latest amendments.

4702 Major Works :- Total 2 Works, Amount put to Tender **Rs.667.66Lakhs, Tender Period for the above works are Nine(9) Months to Eleven(11) Months including monsoon.**

4702 SCP Works :- Total 5 Works/Package Works, Amount put to Tender **Rs.32.40 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above works are Three(3) Months including monsoon.**

Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka E-Procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home under login for Contractors from **04.06.2026.** Tenders may be submitted on electronically in E-Procurement portal up to **17-30 hrs.** on **12.06.2026.** Interested contractors information regarding works may be obtained from this office or e-Procurement helpdesk (Ph.No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227) upto **17-30 hrs.** on **11.06.2026.** Pre-bid meeting will be held on **10.06.2026** for work costing above 1.00 Crore in the office of the Executive Engineer, MI&GWDD Division, Vijaypur. Tenders shall be quoted without adding GST and other details can be seen in the tender documents.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/127/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWDD Division, Vijayapur**

Rai meets President Zhaparov at SCO summit

Indian MoS Nityanand Rai met Kyrgyzstan President Sadyr Zhaparov in Bishkek to discuss regional security and cooperation

BISHKEK

India's Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai, called on Kyrgyzstan President Sadyr Zhaparov in the capital city of Bishkek. The high-profile courtesy meeting took place on the sidelines of an important regional security conference.

Minister Rai is currently visiting Kyrgyzstan to attend a three-day summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, which runs until June 6. He joined several other international heads of delegations to meet with President Zhaparov. The top leaders discussed vital issues regarding public security, law enforcement, and regional stability.

Upon his arrival at the local airport, Rai received a warm welcome from Kyrgyzstan's Internal Affairs Minister, Colonel General Ulan Niyazbekov, alongside Indian Ambassador Birender Singh Yadav. Kyrgyzstan currently holds the leadership chair for the global organization, focusing its current presidency on building sustainable peace, growth, and prosperity across all member nations.

The influential alliance has grown significantly over the years. Founded in 2001 by six nations, it expanded to include India and Pakistan in 2017, followed by Iran and Belarus. It now features ten powerful member states alongside various observer nations and dialogue partners.

India has actively participated in several high-level security and defense meetings in Bishkek over the past few months. This latest diplomatic visit by Minister Rai strongly highlights India's ongoing commitment to fighting transnational crime and strengthening its strategic partnerships with Central Asian nations to ensure a safer future.

Japan discusses destroyer exports with Indonesia

TOKYO

Japan and Indonesia have agreed to launch official working-level talks regarding the potential export of advanced Japanese naval destroyers to the Southeast Asian nation. The decision highlights Tokyo's rapid push to strengthen military partnerships with friendly countries across the Indo-Pacific region.

The strategic agreement was reached during a high-profile meeting in Tokyo between Japanese Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi and his Indonesian counterpart, Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin. According to defense officials, Indonesia has expressed a strong desire to acquire Japan's reliable Asagiri-class destroyers. This move would significantly boost Jakarta's maritime security and technological capabilities.

This discussion comes after Japan eased its strict restrictions on exporting lethal military equipment in April. Since then, Tokyo has actively sought deeper security ties with key regional partners,

Japan and Indonesia have launched working-level talks to negotiate the potential export of Japanese Asagiri-class naval destroyers, strengthening regional defense ties

including New Zealand and the Philippines. Minister Koizumi recently promoted Japanese naval technology to Australia and New Zealand, emphasizing how shared military equipment can improve joint operations during a crisis.

Furthermore, Japan and Australia have already signed major contracts to jointly build warships based on Japan's modern frigate designs. Experts believe Tokyo is quickly transforming into a crucial security anchor for Southeast Asia to maintain balance in highly contested waters.

The two defense ministers decided to route all future technical negotiations through a special working group established last month. Both nations are highly optimistic about the future. They believe this historic warship deal will not only modernize Indonesia's fleet but also foster long-term peace, safety, and cooperation across the entire region.

A mysterious maritime drone self-detonated inside Romania's busy port of Constanta, causing an explosion but no injuries

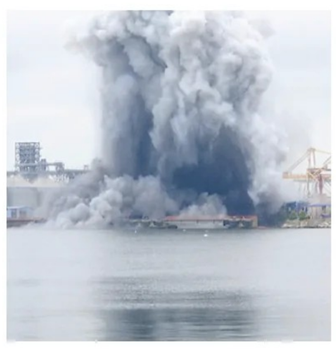
Sea drone explodes in Romanian Black Port

BUCHAREST

A mysterious maritime drone self-detonated inside Romania's busy port of Constanta. Fortunately, nobody was hurt during the unexpected blast. Local security forces quickly rushed to the scene to secure the area and investigate the frightening situation.

The Romanian Ministry of National Defence immediately clarified that the explosive device did not belong to the national military. Furthermore, officials confirmed it was not involved in any recent naval training exercises conducted in the surrounding Black Sea.

Security forces and local police acted swiftly, evacuating everyone safely from the area before the actual detonation took place. Romanian President Nicusor Dan assured the public that protecting human lives and safeguarding port infrastructure remain the government's topmost priorities. Because Romania is a dedicated NATO member bordering the strategic Black Sea, President Dan



promised to work closely with international allies to handle any potential dangers.

This explosion marks the second major coastal security scare this week, following the discovery of a dangerous underwater mine just days ago. European Union chief Ursula von der Leyen strongly condemned the event, calling it a direct consequence of the war in neighboring Ukraine. She warned that such stray devices are becoming a real threat to nations on the eastern border. Security experts are currently analyzing how the drone managed to enter the secure port to prevent similar terrifying incidents from happening again.

Four lethal factors drive Bangladesh safety crisis

DHAKA

Bangladesh is experiencing a deeply disturbing collapse in public safety as violent crimes continue to surge across the nation. Experts warn that widespread drug abuse and a sharp decline in moral values are triggering a terrifying wave of domestic violence, child abuse, and sexual harassment.

According to a new report, social analysts and psychologists have identified four dangerous factors driving this crisis. Widespread narcotics, weakening social oversight, fading morals, and a persistent culture of impunity are rapidly destroying the community's safety. Cheap illicit drugs, ranging from marijuana to highly lethal crystal meth, have spread aggressively from major urban centers to remote rural villages, engulfing the country's youth.

This rampant addiction severely damages self-control, leading directly to violent behavior where women and children become easy targets. Local crime data indicates that the vast majority of recent muggings and sexual assaults are heavily linked to substance abuse. Unfortunately, powerful and highly organized criminal syndicates keep the lucrative drug trade alive despite frequent police crackdowns.

Even more shocking, horrific incidents of abuse are now emerging from traditionally safe spaces like residential schools and religious institutions. Shocked citizens are calling on the government to dismantle these elite criminal networks immediately. Experts stress that to restore peace, families, schools, and religious leaders must unite as a single protective shield. Society must stop protecting influential criminals and take decisive, urgent action before time completely runs out.

India and France strengthen defence cooperation

PARIS

Indian Air Force Chief AP Singh concluded a three-day official visit to France, reinforcing defense ties between the two nations. Singh held bilateral talks with French military leaders, visited key combat centers, and engaged with top defense manufacturers like Dassault Aviation to advance the "Make in India" initiative.

The high-profile visit follows India issuing an official request to buy 114 Rafale fighter jets in a massive deal. Under the proposal, 94 of these advanced jets will be manufactured domestically in India, significantly boosting the country's aerial capabilities and maritime security.

EU condemned for Pakistan special trade benefits

WASHINGTON

The European Union is facing intense global criticism for continuing to grant special trade benefits to Pakistan despite the country's worsening human rights record. International observers warn that the current agreement is enabling severe abuses against religious minorities.

Under a special system launched in 2014, known as the GSP-plus status, the European Union rewards Pakistan with tax-free access to European markets for over sixty-six percent of its products. This generous economic lifeline aims to encourage good governance. However, rights groups state that Pakistan has completely failed to show meaningful progress. The Brussels-based organization 'Human Rights without Frontiers' strongly condemned the agreement, labeling it a bad deal that must be suspended immediately.

The impact is devastating for Pakistan's small Christian community, which makes up less than two percent of the population. Journalists and activists report that these minorities face constant societal persecution, including mob violence, harsh blasphemy laws, and economic exclusion. Furthermore, young minority girls are deeply vulnerable to kidnappings and forced marriages. A recent tragic case involved a fourteen-year-old girl who was abducted and forced to convert in Lahore last month.

Despite these clear violations of international labor and human rights pledges, Pakistan's government continues to enjoy the lucrative trade scheme. Critics argue that the European Union is ignoring its own strict standards by maintaining the partnership. Activists are now demanding an urgent review of the trade policy, insisting that economic rewards must be tied to the genuine protection of human lives.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PREETI MALLESHAPPA BAMMANALLI W/o BASAVARAJ, R/o Nanja Reddy Building, Yarandahalli, Jigani, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560105, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KAVERI.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Vijayakumar N S/o Narayanappa M R/o No 120/1 Nagawara Old Village Bangalore 560045. Changed my name as N Vijay Kumar for all future purposes

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Saurabh Srivastava S/o Anil Kishore Srivastava R/o Flat No C-109, Uber Verdant 2 Main Sarjapur Road Doddakannelli Village, Varthur, Hobli Chikkabellandur Bengaluru Karnataka-560035, I have changed the name of my minor daughter Ishika Saurabh Srivastava to Ishika Srivastava aged 8 years.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, HALAKATTEPPA KADANI S/o BASAVARAJ, R/o Devaranavadgi, Devar Navadagi, Bijapur, Sindgi, Karnataka-586206, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as HARISH KADANI.

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE 5TH ADDITIONAL JUNIOR CIVIL JUDGE, KAKINADA
O.S.No.805 / 2025

Between:
Arubariki Tejavathi and another ...Plaintiffs
and
Pulugu Sunil & others ...Defendants

To: Defendants:

1) Pulugu Sunil, S/o. Late Surya Rao, R/o. D.No.56, 1st Cross, Kalyan Nagar, 'D' Group Layout, Near Shoprite, Bangalore, Karnataka

2) Smt. Pulugu Aswini, W/o. Pulugu Sunil, R/o.D.No.56, 1st Cross, Kalyan Nagar, 'D' Group Layout, Near Shoprite, Bangalore, Karnataka.

Both of you are being the Defendants 1 and 2 in this suit, hereby take notice that the suit is being posted to **18-06-2026** for your appearance, before the Hon'ble Court. Both of you are appear either in person or through an Advocate at **10.30 a.m.** on **18-06-2026**, before the Hon'ble Court, failing which the suit will be decided in your absence. Hence informed both of you through this publication. ||**By Court Order**||

VINJAMURI VENKATA RAO
Advoacte, Kakinada, Cell: **9866550610**

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Samyuktha S W/o Umesh N R/o E-124-126/1 TCH College Road Nagawara Bangalore 560045. Changed my Name as Samyuktha for all Future Purposes

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANUPAMA M alias C RACHANA W/o C SWATHANTRA BABU, R/o Sri Yoginarayana EPS Society, 4th Cross, 1st Main, Guruva Reddy Layout, A Narayanapura, Doorvaninagar, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560016, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as C RACHANA.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ESHWARAIAH MANJUNATH S/o Eshwaraiah. Y aged about 50 Years, residing at No.22/14, 2nd Cross, Appurao Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore South, Bengaluru, 560018, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from ESHWARAIAH MANJUNATH to MANJUNATH ESHWARAIAH, vide Affidavit dated 01.06.2026 sworn before Aravind Patil G.G. Advocate & Notary, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, GURUKIRAN alias GURUKIRAN B S/o BHASKAR SINGAPPAYYA, R/o Guru Krupa, 198-2, Podamale, Bantakallu, 92 Heroor, Udupi, Karnataka-574115, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as GURUKIRAN BHASKAR.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, THADDEUS ALFONSO S/o ALFONSO DE ALBUQUERQUE, R/o 30, G1 S V Residency, 2nd Cross, Doddamma Temple Street, 8th Block, Koramangala, Koramangala VI Block, Bangalore South, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560095, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as DE ALBUQUERQUE THADDEUS ALFONSO.

NAME CHANGE

I, **ARSHIYA KOWSER**, W/o Mansoor Khan, resident of Mutton Market Road, Sharabh Munishamappa Badavane, Hosakote, Bengaluru-562114, have changed my name to **ARSHIYA KOWSAR**, vide affidavit dated: 02.06.2026, before Notary MEER HASSAN, Bangalore.

NAME CHANGE

I, **STANISLAUS CHOURAPPA MARIAPPA**, have changed my name to **STANY MARIAPPA** vide affidavit dated: 05.06.2026 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

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Japan's PM moves to deepen India ties

TOKYO

In a major diplomatic move, Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi is making arrangements to visit India as early as next month. The upcoming high-profile visit aims to significantly deepen the economic and security ties between the two powerful Asian nations.

According to reports, plans are currently being finalized for Takaichi to travel to the northeastern state of Assam. There, she will hold an important in-person summit with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The two leaders are expected to discuss a wide range of bilateral issues, focusing heavily on stabilizing global energy supplies and securing critical mineral supply

chains amid ongoing tensions in West Asia.

This trip will mark their second official face-to-face meeting, following productive discussions held on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Johannesburg last November. Both leaders want to build upon the ambitious ten-year joint partnership vision that was originally outlined during Prime Minister Modi's state visit to Japan in 2025.

Takaichi aims to establish a consistent tradition of regular, mutual visits between the heads of both governments to ensure long-term stability. PM Modi previously congratulated Takaichi on her landmark election victory in February, expressing immense confidence in her leadership. In response, Takaichi reiterated her strong commitment to maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific region. International security experts are watching the developing situation closely, believing that a robust India-Japan alliance remains absolutely vital for maintaining global peace and economic prosperity.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the following Share Certificates for **12,800** Equity Shares of **Rs. 5/-** (Rupees five only) each with **Folio No. ITL013367** of **INFOSYS LTD**, having its registered office at No. 44, Infosys Avenue, Hosur Road, Electronics City, Bengaluru, Karnataka, 560100 registered in the name of **NILOOFER SAYED** and **P M M SAYED** have been lost. **NILOOFER SAYED** and **P M M SAYED** has applied to the company for issue duplicate certificate. Any person who has any claim in respect of the said shares certificate should lodge such claim with the company within in 15 days of the publication of this notice.

Folio No.	Certificate No.	Distinctive No.	Number of Shares
ITL013367	151276	277644475 to 277647674	3200
ITL013367	151276	277644475 to 277647674 (Bonus)	3200
ITL013367	150249	266792151 to 266794550	2400
ITL013367	150249	266792151 to 266794550 (Bonus)	2400
ITL013367	146314	1123343 to 1124142	800
ITL013367	146314	1123343 to 1124142 (Bonus)	800

Sd/-
Date: 6 JUNE, 2026
Place: Karnataka
NILOOFER SAYED
P M M SAYED

US lawmakers propose Chinese robot ban

WASHINGTON DC

Bipartisan US lawmakers have introduced the GUARD Act to review and potentially ban humanoid and four-legged robots made by China and other foreign adversaries. Sponsors argue these high-tech machines pose significant national security risks, warning they could contain hidden vulnerabilities used for cyber espionage. The bill requires security agencies to inspect incoming technology. Dangerous products will face an immediate market ban. Lawmakers also accuse Chinese robotics firms of using government subsidies to flood the US with artificially cheap products, undercutting local manufacturers and deepening a risky reliance on foreign military-linked technology.

Turkiye to host ITTF World Youth Championships

The 2026 World Youth Championships has moved to Istanbul from Bahrain due to safety concerns over regional conflict

LAUSANNE

The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) announced that the World Youth Championships 2026 has been officially relocated to Istanbul, Turkiye, following the unexpected withdrawal of the original host nation, Bahrain. The tournament dates will remain completely unchanged, running from November 21 to 28.

The Bahrain Table Tennis Association made the difficult decision to step down after intense, close consultations with global governing bodies. Both entities mutually prioritized the safety and overall well-being of all international athletes, officials, and incoming delegations given the ongoing war in West Asia. Expressing her profound gratitude, ITTF President Petra Sörling commended Bahrain for putting the welfare of the sports community first, while expressing absolute confidence in Turkiye's ability to pull off a spectacular showpiece event.

This marquee tournament brings together the most elite global junior table tennis talent across both the Under-19 and Under-15 categories. Crucially, it marks the first time in history that Turkiye will host an official ITTF world title event.

The matches are scheduled to take place at Istanbul's prominent Ata Sporları Merkezi, a sophisticated facility highly experienced in hosting major World Table Tennis (WTT) events. Beyond crowning the next generation of global champions, the tournament will serve as a vital operational dress rehearsal for Turkish sports organizers ahead of the 2027 European Games. Kerim Koç, president of the Turkiye Table Tennis Federation, celebrated the historic assignment, stating that welcoming the world's best young players will act as a major catalyst to inspire the country's next generation of athletes.

Embolo granted US visa ahead of WC

Swiss striker Breel Embolo has received US visa approval for the 2026 World Cup, resolving background check delays to rejoin his team in California.

BERN

Switzerland striker Breel Embolo has finally received approval to enter the United States for the upcoming 2026 FIFA World Cup, following a stressful visa delay caused by intensive legal and background checks by American authorities.

The 29-year-old Rennes forward had been forced to miss the Swiss national squad's initial departure to their pre-tournament training camp in San Diego, California, earlier this week. The Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) was placed under strict review, forcing Embolo to remain behind in Switzerland. He was required to attend a mandatory appointment at the US Embassy, where officials reviewed documentation concerning a 2018 altercation in Basel and a 2023 conviction for making threats the latter resulting in a suspended fine that became legally binding earlier this year.

The Swiss Football Federation confirmed that the diplomatic hurdle has been fully resolved, and Embolo is scheduled to land in California to link up with his teammates by Friday evening.

The physical centre-forward's arrival provides a massive boost to manager Murat Yakin's attacking arsenal.

Boasting 86 international caps and 24 goals, Embolo's tournament experience is vital for Rossocrociati.

Placed in Group B, Switzerland will launch their World Cup campaign against Qatar on June 13 at the San Francisco Bay Area Stadium in Santa Clara, California, before facing Bosnia & Herzegovina and co-hosts Canada.

GROUP B MATTERS: SWITZERLAND'S WORLD CUP FIXTURES

Date (2026)	Opponent	Venue
June 13	Qatar	San Francisco Bay Area Stadium (Santa Clara, CA)
June 17	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Los Angeles Stadium (Los Angeles, CA)
June 24	Canada	BC Place (Vancouver, BC)

Four Asian teams qualify for 2026 games

SINGAPORE

Four energetic Asian cricket teams are celebrating after booking their tickets to the upcoming 2026 Asian Games in Japan. Nepal, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and Oman put on a fantastic show in Singapore to secure their spots in the big tournament.

Nepal truly stole the spotlight during the qualifiers. They showed incredible power, especially batsman Kushal Bhurtel. He smashed a stunning century off just 43 balls against China, helping Nepal score a massive 313 runs. Nepal then defeated Malaysia easily to top Group A. Thanks to these huge wins, Nepal made history by becoming the very first men's team to score over 300 runs twice in T20 cricket. Malaysia also qualified after beating China.

Over in Group B, Hong Kong and Oman proved to be unstoppable. Both teams defeated Bahrain and Singapore, ensuring they move forward. While they still have to play each other to see who wins the group, their main mission is already accomplished.

These four excited qualifiers will now travel to Japan for the 10-team tournament, running from September 24 to October 3. They will face giant cricket nations like India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan, alongside the host nation.

Fans are already buzzing with excitement. Cricket is growing rapidly across Asia, and these qualifiers proved that the upcoming games will be packed with thrilling action. The battle for the gold medal is officially on, and these rising teams are ready to shock the world.

Soul, B Haunt book Asian games Esports spots

MUMBAI

Two talented Indian Esports players are celebrating a massive dream come true. Gurashish Singh, known as "Soul," and Prateek Bhaunt, called "B Haunt," have officially qualified to represent India at the upcoming 2026 Asian Games in Japan.

The skilled duo earned their proud spots on Team India after winning the National Esports Championships.

Soul completely dominated the competition in the game Tekken 8, while B Haunt snatched the top spot in Street Fighter 6. Both players belong to the popular gaming group S8UL Esports. They were discovered through a special talent hunt program that provides young gamers with professional coaching, monthly salaries, and travel support.

"Representing India at the Asian Games is something every athlete dreams of," an excited Soul shared.

B Haunt also expressed immense joy, calling this milestone one of the biggest achievements of his entire gaming career.

The highly anticipated 20th Asian Games will take place in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from September 19 to October 4.

Esports has grown rapidly over the years, transitioning from a simple demonstration event into a highly respected, official full-medal sport.

Fans across the country are incredibly proud of these two young stars.

Their inspiring success shows how competitive gaming is truly thriving in India.

Soul and B Haunt are now completely focused on their intense training, determined to bring home historic medals and make the nation proud on the grand international stage.

Test cricket must change to survive: Ashwin

NEW DELHI

Former Indian cricket star Ravichandran Ashwin has sent out a serious warning about the future of Test cricket. The legendary spin bowler stated that the traditional five-day format urgently needs to change if it wants to survive.

Ashwin was recently celebrated as one of the twenty-five greatest international players of this century. During the ceremony, he explained that the game has reached a critical turning point. He worries that many talented athletes who spend fifteen years playing domestic cricket are missing out on national selection. Without proper financial rewards and clear opportunities, young players might lose their passion for the longest form of the game.

The great all-rounder also noted that modern cricket moves incredibly fast. Because of the massive financial success of high-scoring T20 matches, bowlers are facing intense pressure. Ashwin believes that bowlers can no longer rely purely on taking individual wickets. Instead, they must work together like a pack of hunting wolves and learn to solve tricky problems ball by ball.

Ashwin officially retired from international cricket in late 2024 with a staggering 765 wickets. He remains one of India's most successful match-winners, second only to the iconic Anil Kumble. As a devoted fan of the traditional game, Ashwin hopes his words will inspire quick action from cricket authorities. He insists that immediate updates are absolutely vital to keep the historic format exciting and relevant for the next generation.

Rohan launches expanded DDCA women's league

NEW DELHI

Delhi's cricket bosses are on an exciting mission to change women's cricket forever.

Rohan Jaitley, the president of the Delhi & District Cricket Association, announced that the organization wants to create great, year-round playing opportunities for female athletes.

He shared this vision while officially launching the second edition of the highly anticipated DDCA Women's T20 League.

The massive club competition opened with a colorful ceremony at the famous Modern School on Barakhamba Road.

This year, the tournament has grown tremendously, expanding from forty-two teams last year to an impressive sixty teams.

More than 700 excited players will showcase their talent across multiple grounds in the capital.

"We started this tournament to give young girls more chances to play competitive cricket," Jaitley said joyfully. He added that the main goal is to build a solid pathway from local club matches to the highest levels of international cricket.

Other top officials, including vice president Shikha Kumar and secretary Ashok Sharma, praised local clubs for being the true backbone of this sports revolution.

They noted that the incredible jump in player registration proves women's cricket is booming in popularity.

The highly anticipated matches will take place over the coming weeks at several prominent venues, including Shivaji College and Pitampura.

With the sixty competing teams divided into ten intense groups, the upcoming games promise plenty of thrilling action. Local fans are ready to cheer for these rising stars as they chase their sporting dreams.

Pathirage wins Rome Diamond League Javelin title

ROME

Sri Lankan athlete Rumesh Pathirage shocked the world last night by winning the men's javelin throw title at the Rome Diamond League. The young star delivered an unbelievable throw to secure a historic victory on the global track and field stage.

The twenty-three-year-old launched a breathtaking throw of 92.62 meters at the iconic Stadio Olimpico. This spectacular distance smashed the tournament's twenty-year-old record by more than two meters. Pathirage's massive effort also came incredibly close to the Asian record set by Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem in 2024. With this performance, he becomes only the fourth Asian athlete in history to break the legendary ninety-meter barrier, joining greats like India's Neeraj Chopra.

Former world champion Anderson Peters finished a distant second place, while America's Curtis Thompson grabbed third. Pathirage now proudly holds the two best javelin throws in the world this year.

His victory has sparked massive celebrations across Sri Lanka, highlighting his rapid rise as a global track superstar.

Meanwhile, India's Sachin Yadav experienced a quiet Diamond League debut. Competing in his very first international event since placing fourth at last year's World Championships, the twenty-six-year-old struggled to find his best form. He finished in eighth place out of ten elite competitors with a top throw of 79.18 meters.

Despite the mixed results for the neighboring nations, Asian athletes completely dominated the headlines on a thrilling night of athletics.

Las Vegas secures long term F1 deal

MONACO

The thunderous roar of engines will echo down the famous Las Vegas Strip for another decade. Formula One officials announced that the city has signed a massive ten-year contract extension, guaranteeing the thrilling night race remains on the global calendar until 2037. Since its spectacular debut in 2023, the floodlit Saturday night race has quickly become a fan favorite. Drivers fly past iconic casinos at breathtaking speeds of over 200 miles per hour. Las Vegas is one of three American cities currently hosting a Grand Prix, alongside Austin and Miami, proving that the sport's popularity is booming across the United States.

The decision to extend the contract makes perfect business sense. Tourism and racing officials revealed that the event has pumped a staggering $3.2 billion into the local economy since its inception. Every single race has sold out completely, drawing around 300,000 passionate fans over each three-day weekend. Furthermore, the event generated $43 million in tax revenue last year while donating millions to local charities.

Formula One chief Stefano Domenicali expressed great excitement about the extended partnership, calling the city a true cornerstone of American motorsport.

Local leaders agree that keeping the race is a defining moment for Las Vegas as it evolves into the ultimate sports destination. With the future locked in, fans can look forward to many more years of high-speed drama and world-class entertainment under the neon lights.

Serena Williams announces return to professional tennis

LONDON

In a stunning twist that has thrilled sports fans worldwide, legendary tennis icon Serena Williams is officially returning to the professional courts.

The twenty-three-time Grand Slam champion announced that she will play doubles at the upcoming HSBC Championships at Queen's Club.

The forty-four-year-old American superstar is teaming up with a rising nineteen-year-old Canadian sensation, Victoria Mboko.

Despite a fascinating twenty-five-year age gap between the two partners, the dynamic duo is eager to take on the historic grass courts of West Kensington from June 8 to 14.

Williams received a special wild-card entry to join the competitive women's tournament.

An incredibly excited Mboko shared her joy on social media, writing that it is an absolute honor to share the court with one of the greatest athletes of all time.

Williams has not played a competitive match since the 2022 US Open, where she famously stated she was "evolving away" from the sport rather than fully retiring.

During her spectacular career, Williams last won a major singles trophy at the 2017 Australian Open while pregnant.

Though she reached four additional Grand Slam finals after her maternity leave, she narrowly missed matching the all-time record.

Tennis enthusiasts are buzzing with immense excitement over this unexpected comeback.

Seeing the legendary champion bring her iconic power back to the grass courts alongside a bright teenage star promises to make the London tournament an unforgettable event for sports history.

India boosts Venezuelan oil imports

They discussed expanding energy cooperation as rising crude supply uncertainties push New Delhi toward diversified imports

NEW DELHI

India and Venezuela have agreed to deepen cooperation in the energy sector as New Delhi seeks to diversify crude oil supplies amid ongoing geopolitical uncertainties and disruptions affecting traditional import routes. The discussions took place during a meeting between Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Venezuela's Acting President Delcy Eloína Rodríguez Gómez in New Delhi.

During the meeting, Puri reaffirmed India's support for Venezuela's energy sector and stated that Indian companies are prepared to expand their presence in the South American nation. He emphasized Venezuela's growing importance in India's energy diversification strategy and expressed interest in strengthening bilateral energy trade.

Rodríguez welcomed greater participation by Indian firms in Venezuela's reformed oil and gas industry and described India as a reliable and preferred partner. She also invited an Indian delegation to visit Venezuela to explore fresh investment and collaboration opportunities in the energy sector.

The renewed engagement comes as India looks for alternative sources of crude oil following disruptions in global supply chains and concerns over shipments from the Gulf region. Venezuela, which possesses the world's largest proven oil reserves, has emerged as an increasingly significant supplier for India in recent months.

According to official data, India's average monthly crude oil imports from Venezuela rose sharply from 64.027 thousand metric tonnes during FY 2025-26 to 1,047.148 thousand metric tonnes during April-May of FY 2026-27. Venezuela was also among India's largest crude suppliers during the period.

Both sides highlighted the complementary nature of their energy sectors, with India's advanced refining capacity well-suited to process Venezuela's heavy crude oil. The discussions are expected to pave the way for stronger long-term cooperation in upstream and downstream energy projects, supporting India's efforts to enhance energy security and diversify its import basket.

QUICK READ

RBI projects steady growth amid global economic risks

CH NEWS, Mumbai
The Reserve Bank of India projected real GDP growth at 6.6 per cent for FY27, with quarterly growth estimates of 6.6, 6.3, 6.5 and 6.8 per cent. RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the economy remains resilient despite global supply chain disruptions, financial market volatility and weather related risks. Private consumption, investment, manufacturing, services and exports continue supporting activity, although higher costs are beginning to show. CPI inflation is projected at 5.1 per cent for FY27, while core inflation is seen at 4.7 per cent. The RBI warned that monsoon uncertainty, El Nino risks and second round inflation effects require close monitoring and vigilance over the coming months and quarters ahead.

Maruti Suzuki to invest in biogas projects

CH NEWS, New Delhi
Maruti Suzuki India will invest Rs 150 crore in two biogas projects to expand its green energy push. It will set up a 10 tonnes per day plant at Kharkhoda and expand Manesar capacity. The Kharkhoda unit is expected to cut about 9,490 tonnes of CO2 annually and meet 20 per cent gas needs. Ma nesar expansion will produce 3.6 lakh cubic metres of biogas annually and avoid 664 tonnes CO2 em issions. The company uses waste feedstock and anaerobic digestion to redu ce fossil fuel dependence. Initiativ es align with Wa ste-to-Wealth mission and government push for clean energy while suppor ting sustainable manufacturing and lowering emissions across operations.

Indian film media delegation to explore Moscow industry

CH NEWS, New Delhi
Indian film and media professionals will visit Moscow to explore opportunities in the Russian cinema industry. The delegation aims to engage with studios, producers and creative institutions to understand potential collaboration in co-productions, distribution and digital content partnerships. The visit reflects growing cultural exchange and strengthening ties between India, Russia in the entertainment sector. It also highlights increa sing interest in joint filmmaking projects and participation in international film markets. The engagement is part of broader efforts to deepen cooperation in creative industries, promote shared storytelling and expand au dience reach across both countries through cultural and media collaboration initiatives further.

SpaceX IPO access blocked in China and Hong Kong

HONG KONG

Access to SpaceX's official website and initial public offering (IPO) documents has reportedly been blocked for users in mainland China and Hong Kong, potentially limiting investor participation from two major financial markets in what is expected to be one of the world's largest public listings.

According to a Reuters review, users attempting to access SpaceX's website and IPO materials from these regions encountered an "Error 1009," which typically indicates a region-based restriction set by the website owner. The restriction comes as the company begins its IPO roadshow and releases key financial and business documents to potential investors.

The IPO, led by billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk, aims to raise around $75 billion at a valuation of approximately $1.75 trillion. If successful, it would become the largest stock market debut in history and place SpaceX among the most valuable publicly listed companies globally.

Major investment banks, including Citigroup, Bank of America, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan, and Morgan Stanley, are managing the offering, with additional support from Asian financial institutions for regional participation.

The reason for restricting access in China and Hong Kong has not been officially confirmed. Analysts suggest it could be linked to regulatory concerns, the company's defence-related operations, or broader restrictions on cross-border investor access to sensitive technology firms.

SpaceX has historically drawn strong global investor interest due to its dominance in reusable rocket technology, satellite communications, and space exploration initiatives. However, its links to U.S. defence contracts and advanced aerospace systems may also complicate access in certain jurisdictions.

Neither SpaceX nor the lead IPO banks have issued detailed comments on the restriction. The development raises questions about whether investors in key Asian markets will face barriers in participating in the highly anticipated offering.

As the IPO process continues, attention remains on pricing expected later this month and whether access issues will affect global demand for shares.

BHEL shares rise on winning major power project

NEW DELHI

Shares of state-owned Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) gained over 2 per cent on Friday after the engineering giant secured a major order worth more than Rs 21,000 crore for a thermal power project in Uttar Pradesh. The development boosted investor sentiment and reinforced confidence in the company's strong order pipeline.

BHEL was awarded the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract by Meja Urja Nigam Pvt Ltd (MUNPL) for the 3x800 MW Meja Supercritical Thermal Power Project Stage-II in Prayagraj. The contract was awarded through an international competitive bidding process and includes design, engineering, manufacturing, supply, construction, erection, testing and commissioning of the project.

The company said the project is scheduled to be completed within 70 months from the date of award notification. MUNPL is a joint venture between NTPC Limited and Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited. BHEL clarified that the transaction does not involve any related-party arrangements.

BHEL shares rose over 2 per cent after securing a Rs 21,000 crore thermal power project order, strengthening its order book and growth outlook.

The latest order comes shortly after the company secured another international contract valued between Rs 2,000 crore and Rs 2,500 crore from Nigeria's Dangote Petroleum Refinery & Petrochemicals Free Zone Enterprise. The agreement covers the design, manufacture, supply and supervision of erection and commissioning of eight gas turbine generator packages for a refinery and polypropylene plant in Nigeria.

Following the announcement, BHEL shares climbed 2.86 per cent to Rs 400.35 during intraday trading. The stock has delivered strong returns, rising 55.75 per cent over the past year and 36.55 per cent so far in 2026.

The company's financial performance has also remained robust. BHEL reported a 155.8 per cent jump in consolidated net profit to Rs 1,290.47 crore during the January-March quarter of FY26. Its provisional turnover for the full financial year stood at around Rs 32,350 crore, up 18 percent year-on-year.

BHEL secured total order inflows of approximately Rs 75,000 crore during FY26, taking its outstanding order book to around Rs 2.4 lakh crore.

The rupee strengthened sharply against the dollar after RBI announced measures to boost foreign investments and capital inflows

Rupee rallies as RBI eases foreign investment norms

NEW DELHI

The Indian rupee recorded a sharp gain against the US dollar on Friday after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a series of measures aimed at attracting foreign capital and improving investor confidence. The domestic currency appreciated by 50 paise during intraday trade, supported by positive market sentiment following the central bank's latest policy decisions.

The rupee strengthened to 95.24 against the US dollar after opening at 95.72 in the interbank foreign exchange market. In the previous trading session, the currency had settled at 95.74 against the dollar.

The appreciation came after the RBI unveiled steps to encourage foreign investments and strengthen capital inflows amid a challenging global economic environment.

Announcing the second bi-monthly monetary policy of FY27, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) unanimously decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent.

Key Points
- Rupee gains 50 paise against dollar.
- RBI keeps repo rate unchanged.
- FPI investment norms eased significantly.
- FCNR deposit window supports inflows.
- Forex reserves boost market confidence.

The central bank also maintained its neutral policy stance, signalling a balanced approach toward growth and inflation management.

Among the key measures announced were higher investment limits for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) in equity instruments.

The RBI also relaxed norms governing Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) investments in government securities, a move expected to improve foreign participation in domestic financial markets.

Market experts said additional initiatives, including the expansion of the Fully Accessible Route (FAR) for government bonds, concessional foreign exchange swap facilities, and a temporary FCNR(B) deposit window, are likely to support dollar inflows and strengthen the rupee further.

The RBI reiterated that it does not target any specific exchange rate level and allows market forces to determine the value of the rupee. However, it remains committed to preventing excessive volatility and disorderly market movements.

Despite concerns over elevated crude oil prices, investor confidence received support from India's strong foreign exchange reserves, currently estimated at around $682 billion. The central bank also revised FY27 GDP growth projections to 6.6 per cent and raised inflation estimates to 5.1 per cent, reflecting evolving economic conditions.

RBI raises investment limits for NRIs and OCIs

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday announced a series of measures aimed at attracting foreign capital, strengthening external balances, and supporting economic growth. RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra revealed the initiatives while presenting the outcome of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting.

One of the key announcements was the increase in investment limits for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) in equity instruments traded on Indian stock exchanges without requiring re gistration with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). The facility has also been extended to all individual Persons Resident Outside India (PROIs), placing them on par with NRIs and OCIs.

To further encourage foreign currency inflows, the RBI introduced a concessio nal foreign exchange swap facility for External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) raised by Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

Rajesh exports shares hit lower circuit again amid probe

NEW DELHI

Shares of Rajesh Exports fell sharply for the second consecutive trading session on Friday, hitting the 5 per cent lower circuit limit after the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) barred the company's promoter and Chief Executive Officer, Rajesh Mehta, from dealing in the firm's securities.

The stock dropped 4.99 per cent to Rs 98.73 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), while it declined 4.97 per cent to Rs 99.45 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). Investor sentiment remained weak following SEBI's interim order alleging serious financial irregularities within the company.

According to the market regulator, preliminary findings indicate large-scale misrepresentation of financial statements, diversion of funds, and inadequate disclosure of related-party transactions. SEBI stated that its investigation uncovered instances of fund routing and layering through personal accounts and related entities without sufficient documentation or proper disclosures.

The regulator said it had repeatedly sought accurate financial records and explanations regarding fund flows, end-use of funds, and business rationale. However, the responses received from the company were found to be unsatisfactory. SEBI also criticized the lack of cooperation from the company's statutory auditors, noting that promised audit working papers were not submitted despite multiple opportunities.

- Shares hit lower circuit again.
- SEBI bars promoter Rajesh Mehta.
- Alleged financial misreporting under investigation.
- Fund diversion and disclosure concerns.
- Company denies all allegations strongly.

In its order, SEBI observed that nearly 97 to 99 per cent of the company's reported revenue may have been inflated. The regulator described the alleged irregularities as highly unusual and serious in nature. It further stated that Rajesh Mehta exercised substantial control over the company's financial and operational affairs, leading to restrictions on his participation in the company's securities market activities until further notice.

Rajesh Exports has denied the allegations, maintaining that its financial reporting is accurate. The Bengaluru-based company said there may have been a communication gap with the regulator and expressed confidence that a review of authenticated documents would establish the correctness of its disclosures and business operations.

CONTINUOUS GAS FLARING

Oil India confirms natural gas discovery in Andaman

NEW DELHI

State-owned Oil India Limited has announced a fresh natural gas discovery in its third exploratory well in the Andaman offshore block, marking another encouraging sign of hydrocarbon presence in the region and boosting prospects for future energy exploration.

The company said the Vijayapuram-3 well, located under the Offshore Andaman Block AN-OSHP-2018/1, is situated about 15 km off the east coast of the Andaman Islands at a water depth of 355 metres. The drilling was carried out under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP), aimed at accelerating exploration activities in untapped offshore regions.

According to the company, the well was drilled to a depth of over 1,900 metres in the Eocene geological formation. Initial production testing confirmed the presence of natural gas, with continuous flaring observed after perforation, indicating active hydrocarbon flow. The well also showed im mediate pressure build-up followed by sustained gas produc tion, strengthening the discovery findings. Gas sampling is currently underway to determine the composition, calorific value, and overall quality of the reserves. The company is also conducting isotope studies to better understand the origin and migration pattern of hydrocarbons in the region.

This marks the second confir med hydrocarbon indication in the Andaman offshore block. Earlier, gas was discovered in the Vijayapuram-2 exploratory well in September 2025, sugge sting a broader potential energy system in the area.Out of the three wells drilled so far, two have confirmed hydrocarbon presence, indicating promising geological conditions. The com pany stated that the latest discovery serves as a "leading indicator" of possible source rock, migration pathways, or ac cumulation zones in the basin.The find is expected to help Oil India refine its exploration strategy and plan future drilling campaigns more effectively.

India auto sales surge reflects strong economic momentum

NEW DELHI

India's passenger vehicle market recorded robust growth in May 2026, reinforcing optimism about the country's economic momentum and manufacturing strength. Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal said the latest sales figures highlight that "India's growth engine is in top gear," driven by strong domestic demand and a thriving automotive ecosystem. The passenger vehicle segment clocked nearly 4.4 lakh units in May 2026, registering a 23 per cent year-on-year increase. The growth was led by major automakers including Maruti Suzuki India Limited, Tata Motors Limited, and Mahindra & Mahindra Limited, all of which reported strong sales performance during the month.

No. 3 slot remains India's biggest headache: DEVANG GANDHI

Former selector Devang Gandhi flagged India's unstable number three batting position as a major concern before the Afghanistan Test

NEW CHANDIGARH

Former national selector Devang Gandhi has flagged the number three batting position as India's biggest unresolved issue ahead of their one-off Test match against Afghanistan. He noted that the vital slot has remained a chaotic revolving door ever since veteran anchor Cheteshwar Pujara was dropped from the squad.

Since Pujara's exit, India has auditioned seven different batsmen at one-drop without anyone cementing the spot. Shubman Gill had the longest run before sliding down the order upon taking over the Test captaincy. Since then, the team has shuffled through Sai Sudharsan, Washington Sundar, Dhruv Jurel, and Devdutt Padikkal. Gandhi criticized this lack of consistency, pointing out how Sundar was abruptly pushed to number three on a spinning track against South Africa, only to be dropped immediately after a batting collapse.

With the upcoming Test hosted in Chandigarh, Gandhi urged selectors to pick a player and back them patiently. He suggested that Sudharsan might sit out this match after failing to capitalize on opportunities in England, opening the door for an in-form Padikkal. "Whoever they have identified, they need to give him a longer run of at least four or five Test matches. Number three requires immense technique and temperament," Gandhi stated.

The former selector also praised Gill's evolution as a calm leader and defended the surprise fast-tracking of tall pacer Gurnoor Brar over domestic top-wicket taker Auqib Nabi. Gandhi hinted that if Chandigarh presents a green pitch, Brar might debut to test his "X-factor" ahead of the New Zealand series.

Praggnanandhaa defeats Gukesh in Norway thriller

OSLO

Praggnanandhaa's vital victory over Gukesh threw the championship race wide open, while Assaubayeva captured the historic women's crown with a round to spare.

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa breathed new life into his championship dreams after a stunning Round 9 victory over reigning World Champion D Gukesh, leaving the tournament wide open ahead of the final round.

Playing with the black pieces, Praggnanandhaa capitalized beautifully on a midgame error from Gukesh. He converted his advantage with supreme poise to claim his third consecutive classical win of the tournament. The maximum three-point reward propelled Praggnanandhaa to 15 points, putting him just half a point behind current leader Wesley So. Expressing his relief, Praggnanandhaa revealed he was thrilled to be in contention, considering he was battling for the bottom spot just three days ago.

Meanwhile, current leader Wesley So drew his classical matchup against World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen. However, the American rebounded instantly by winning the fast-paced Armageddon tiebreaker to secure the extra point and retain his lead. Trailing closely behind is Alireza Firouzja, who held off Vincent Keymer in their classical match before securing an Armageddon victory to sit comfortably at 14.5 points.

In the women's category, Kazakhstan's Bibisara Assaubayeva officially clinched the historic crown with a round to spare. Assaubayeva drew her classical game against Anna Muzychuk.

Though Muzychuk won the subsequent Armageddon tiebreaker, Assaubayeva's mathematical lead at 16.5 points became completely uncatchable. China's Zhu Jiner scored the only decisive classical win of the women's bracket by outlasting India's Divya Deshmukh in time trouble to climb into second place overall.

CHINA BEATS INDIA in hockey semifinal

KAKAMIGAHARA

The Indian under-18 women's hockey team suffered a heartbreaking 1-3 penalty shootout defeat against China, following an intense 2-2 draw in the tournament's semifinals.

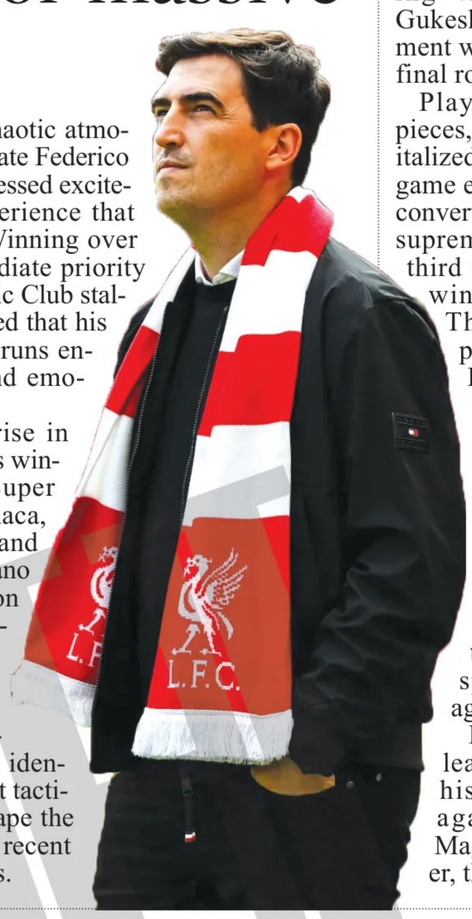
India initiated an aggressive start in the first quarter, capturing an early lead in the third minute. Captain Sweety Kujur provided a brilliant pass into the striking circle to Nousheen Naz, who fired a back-handed shot past the Chinese goalkeeper. However, a defensive error in the 24th minute allowed China's Li ZeYan to seize a loose ball and cleanly hit a field goal to equalize before halftime.

The second half turned into a tactical defensive battle. Indian goalkeeper Mahak Parihar made spectacular saves to deny China's penalty corners, while India failed to convert consecutive opportunities at the opposite end. China momentarily broke the deadlock in the 48th minute when Zhang Yuzheng smashed a rebound shot into the net. Refusing to surrender, India fought back fiercely, and Kiran Ekka successfully converted a critical penalty corner in the 54th minute to tie the game at 2-2.

With no tiebreaker in regular time, the match advanced into a high-stakes shootout. Chinese goalkeeper Liu Xue delivered a stellar performance, blocking three Indian attempts. Sandeepa Kumari emerged as the lone scorer for India, while Lu Tong Tong, Ge Chen, and Guo Jiaxin securely converted their shots to seal China's victory.

Andoni Iraola ready for massive Liverpool challenge

LIVERPOOL



Newly appointed Liverpool head coach Andoni Iraola declared he is completely prepared for the immense pressure of guiding Anfield's rebuilding project ahead of the 2026-27 season.

The 43-year-old Spaniard takes the reins as the successor to Arne Slot. Iraola arrives with high stock after an impressive three-year tenure with Bournemouth, where he masterminded a stunning 18-match unbeaten run to secure a historic sixth-place Premier League finish and the club's first-ever European qualification. Speaking directly to the club's media, Iraola embraced the massive weight of expectation that comes with managing the global giants. "Liverpool gives me the chance to coach top players, and top players give you the chance to fight for titles," Iraola stated firmly. "I understand what is expected here. I'm ready for the challenge."

The Basque manager recalled the intimidating "Anfield effect" from his time in the opposing dugout, specifically remembering a chaotic atmosphere sparked by a late Federico Chiesa goal. He expressed excitement to finally experience that raw home energy. Winning over the fans is an immediate priority for the former Athletic Club stalwart, who emphasized that his football philosophy runs entirely on passion and emotion.

Iraola's gradual rise in management includes winning the Cypriot Super Cup with AEK Larnaca, steering Mirandes, and guiding Rayo Vallecano to La Liga promotion before lighting up England. Observers note his high-intensity pressing style mirrors the club's beloved "heavy metal" identity, offering a perfect tactical blueprint to reshape the squad following the recent exits of veteran icons.

Iyer backed for T20 captaincy over Suryakumar

NEW DELHI

Former national selector Devang Gandhi strongly backs Shreyas Iyer to replace Suryakumar Yadav as India's next T20 International captain, citing his stellar domestic and Indian Premier League leadership credentials.

The Ajit Agarkar-led national selection committee meets in Mumbai to finalize squads for upcoming tours of Ireland and England. The central talking point centers on whether to persist with Suryakumar. Although he successfully led India to defend their T20 World Cup title on home soil in March, the 35-year-old's personal batting form has plummeted. He scored just 270 runs during the recent IPL season and a modest 242 runs in the World Cup. With an eye toward building a long-term strategy for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, Gandhi believes the team management must initiate a swift transition.

"Slots are always up for grabs. Surya's batting form is a genuine concern, and I think it is time to move on," Gandhi explained. He described Iyer as the most deserving successor due to his experience guiding Kolkata Knight Riders to an IPL championship, alongside leading both Delhi Capitals and Punjab Kings to tournament finals.

When discussing the vacant vice-captaincy role, Gandhi expressed a strong preference for wicketkeeper-batsman Ishan Kishan over other rising youngsters. He noted that Kishan provides consistency and recently led Jharkhand to domestic success.

Kochhar shines at IGPL Bharath Classic

EL JADIDA

Indian golfer Karandeep Kochhar made a stellar start at the $500,000 IGPL Bharath Classic, carding an impressive six-under-par 66 to anchor himself in a tie for second place after the opening round.

The 26-year-old Chandigarh native bounced back gracefully from a missed cut last week at the Mazagan Beach & Golf Resort.

Kochhar found his rhythm early, firing a sensational streak of four consecutive birdies starting from the second hole. He reached the turn at an exceptional five-under 31 before navigating a challenging, windy back nine with two more birdies and a solitary bogey. Kochhar currently sits just one stroke behind the tournament leader, Thailand's Runchanapong Youprayong, who shot a brilliant seven-under 65. Kochhar shares second place with Australia's Will Florimo and Austria's Nicklas Regner. Reflecting on his turnaround, the four-time winner in India credited rigorous training for his sudden resurgence. "I struggled heavily with my putting last week," Kochhar admitted. "I put in a massive amount of hard work over the weekend and early this week to fix it, and I am incredibly happy that it paid off today."

The leaderboard looks promising for the Indian contingent as fellow countryman Aryan Roopa Anand also forced his way into the top ten. Riding high on the confidence of his recent triumph at the IGPL Congo, Anand carded a solid four-under 68, featuring six birdies, to secure tied-eighth place. Both Indians remain in prime position as the tournament heads into the weekend.

Prabhakaran calls for year round football culture

NEW DELHI

Former All India Football Federation (AIFF) general secretary Shaji Prabhakaran has urged the nation to channel its periodic FIFA World Cup enthusiasm into a sustained, year-round movement for grassroots football development.

The 54-year-old administrative veteran pointed out a frustrating paradox in Indian sports culture.

While the country undergoes a massive football craze every four years, flooding social media, newspapers, and television channels with analysis, this intense engagement rapidly evaporates once the global tournament concludes.

"Football must become part of everyday life in India rather than a four-year carnival," Prabhakaran wrote.

"The same individuals who fervently question why India is not part of the World Cup often remain silent when the Indian national team plays important matches or when domestic clubs face survival challenges."

Prabhakaran highlighted the qualification of smaller nations like Cape Verde and Curaçao for the newly expanded 48-team World Cup as proof that a massive population means nothing without structural competence.

He emphasized that football success is strictly a product of vision, coaching pathways, scouting, and transparent governance.

To bridge the gap between temporary fandom and elite international performance, the former general secretary outlined a roadmap for the country.

FIFA CANCELS TICKETS AFTER WEBSITE GLITCH

NEW DELHI

In a bizarre turn of events, football fans managed to book highly coveted FIFA World Cup 2026 tickets for absolutely nothing due to a sudden website glitch. However, football's world governing body has quickly corrected the error, canceling the free bookings and demanding full payment from the lucky buyers.

FIFA confirmed that approximately 60 supporters received confirmation emails showing a checkout balance of "0 USD" due to a technical payment issue during processing. The pricing blunder originally occurred during online sales on May 21. After discovering the anomaly, FIFA sent out notices stating that all transactions with inaccurate pricing records were officially voided under their general public terms of sale.

To ensure disappointed supporters do not completely miss out on the global showpiece, the governing body has temporarily reserved the exact same seats. The affected fans now have a strict seven-day window to log into their ticketing accounts and pay the correct amount. If the transactions are not completed within this week-long period, the seats will be permanently removed.

This technical mishap adds to growing frustration over escalating tournament costs. Just two months ago, the official resale platform sparked massive outrage after listing four lower-deck tickets behind the goal for the final match at MetLife Stadium for an astonishing $2.3 million each. While FIFA expressed deep regret for the technical inconvenience caused to the fans, it firmly reiterated that market-rate payments are mandatory to secure entry.

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